

DUDLEY CHRONICLE



Thursday, July 11, 2013

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Staying put

Annie's house has been her home for 84 years

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Animal ban

Couple sold their sick bulldog on Facebook

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Boxing best

Aston belts up to claim his first title

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Decision time for the future of theatre

COUNCILLORS will decide the fate of Dudley Hippodrome at a meeting next month.

They will take a decision on whether to grant approval for the demolition of the 1,700-seat theatre, on Castle Hill.

Dudley Council's planning committee will rule on the plans on August 5 at a meeting starting at 6pm at the council house, in Priory Road.

More than 20,000 people have signed a petition gathered over the past 18 months by campaigners bidding to save the theatre.

They hope to bring back its heyday when it was one of the country's leading provincial theatres, drawing in the biggest names in show business.

The Friends of Dudley Hippodrome devised a business plan to show how they could reopen the venue once more.

They have also gathered support from business owners in the town who say the theatre could help the local economy.

But the campaigners suffered a blow when their plans were deemed 'unviable' by assessors from Herefordshire-based consultants Artservice.

The planning application had been on hold pending the assessor's decision.

Take a peak at TV sofa

FANS of the ITV programme This Morning will get the chance to see what it is like on the set when it is recreated at Merry Hill shopping centre this weekend.

Presenter Alison Hammond will take her seat on the show's famous sofa on Friday (July 12).

Viewers will get the chance to meet and pose for photographs with the star from Birmingham, who rose to fame after appearing on Big Brother in 2002.

The set will be open to the public from Friday to Sunday.

Rule change ripped my marriage apart – pastor



A CHURCH pastor says his 13-year marriage to a Brazilian woman is being 'ripped apart' by immigration bosses who are refusing her entry to the UK - because he cannot provide six payslips.

Robert Cooper immediately fell in love with his wife Adna while working as a missionary in São Paulo and after six months married her at Kingswinford Christian Centre.

The pair then worked and settled in the region for three years.

But after returning to the South American country for nine years to

teach English at a private school and then run a church, Mr Cooper has been told by the Border Agency that he cannot bring back his wife to this country.

The problem lies with new immigration rules brought in last July which mean only British people who show they have earned more than £18,600 a year can sponsor their non-European spouse's visa.

Mr Cooper was earning more than the required amount, but because the First Renewal Presbyterian Church is a non-profit organisation, he cannot get payslips for the appli-

cation to prove his earnings. "It's heartbreaking for both of us, the Borders Agency has ripped us apart," said Mr Cooper, who returned to live with his parents Robert and Katherine, in Comber Drive, Pensnett, in March.

Terrible

The 38-year-old is appealing against the Borders Agency's decision, and has the support of Dudley South MP Chris Kelly.

Mr Cooper said: "We have been together for so long, and now my only contact is over the internet or

telephone, the whole thing is terrible and has left me feeling powerless."

A Home Office spokesman said: "All applications are considered on their individual merits and in line with the immigration rules, the onus is on the individual to provide the necessary evidence to support their application."

"Mrs Cooper's application did not meet the requirements of the immigration rules."

The couple appealed against the refusal last month, and expect to get a date for an appeal this month.

Holly gets award for making donor film

A FILM maker from Stourbridge has been awarded for her entry in this year's Organ Donation Through A Lens competition.

Holly Wilkinson, aged 22, from Norton, was recognised in the short film competition run by NHS Blood and Transplant with her film, The Gift of Life.

It took place ahead of National Transplant Week, an annual campaign which runs until Sunday, (July 14) and entrants were asked to create films to encourage people to sign up to the NHS Organ Donor Register.

Miss Wilkinson's film focussed on a girl whose sister had died and had her organs donated.

She said: "I am so happy to hear I won the Best Craft Award."

"It's such a great achievement and I really hope it has helped raise awareness for organ donation."

The judges included Jemma North, producer and director of ITV current affairs series Tonight, and Cat Lewis, executive producer of the Bafta winning programme Me, My Dad & His Kidney.

Sally Johnson, director of organ donation and transplantation at NHS Blood and Transplant, said: "We were all so impressed with the quality and creativity of the films this year."

Miss Wilkinson's film can be watched on www.youTube.com/transplantuk

Leopard cub now named

A NINE-WEEK-OLD female snow leopard cub born at Dudley Zoo has been named Nidara by keepers.

The adorable bundle, the offspring of mother, four-year-old Nanga, and father, three-year-old Margaash, is the first to be born at the attraction in 12 years. Her name means 'fearless' in Hindi. The zoo's head of media and communications Jill Hitchman said: "Staff are delighted with Nidara who is making excellent progress. She has become quite a star."



Directors Martin and Alan Humphries – prepared to take gamble on expansion

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Zoo will stage jazz and blues event

THE roars and shrieks of the animals won't be the only sound at Dudley Zoo as it takes part in a region wide music festival.

As part of the 29th Birmingham International Jazz and Blues Festival, Dudley Zoological Gardens is hosting two nights of music this weekend with Ricky Cool and The Hoola Boola Boys on Friday July 12 and the Jiveoholics on Saturday July 13.

The jazz supper group led by frontman Ricky have played with legends such as Jerry Lee Lewis, Led Zeppelin's Robert Plant and even supported Little Richard on his last UK tour.

Birmingham International Jazz & Blues Festival Organiser, Jim Simpson, said: "Ricky Cool never fails to give a top class act worthy of any international venue and The Jiveoholics, fronted by the fabulous

Kitty L'Etoile, are guaranteed to make you move your feet when they give favourite pieces a little twist of pizzazz."

Welsh jump-jive wizards, The Jiveoholics, are a six-piece late 1940s/early 1950s-style band that formed in 2006 and since then have performed at more than 300 venues across the UK and Europe.

Head of Media and Communications, Jill Hitchman, said: "This is

the fourth year DZG has been part of the festival and we are really excited about welcoming one of the UK's top acts to the Queen Mary Suite."

"So come along and join the jazz fest fun!"

Tickets for the evening, that begins at 7.30pm cost £5 per adult and £3.00 per child.

For more information visit www.dudleyzoo.org.uk.

Driver is cleared of aiming car at reveller

A BRIERLEY Hill man has been cleared at court of dangerous driving after a reveller was hit by a car.

A jury at Wolverhampton Crown Court returned at not guilty on Marc Round, of Robin Hood Road.

He was accused of aiming his Peugeot 106 at David Jones on Ivyhouse Lane, Coseley on May 6 last year. The jury had been told how earlier that night the pair had got into an altercation at The Clifton pub, Sedgley.

The 25-year-old was later in his car on the forecourt of the BP petrol station on Birmingham New Road when Mr Jones and others turned up in their car and chased him away. Mr Jones carrying a large stick.

It was then said Round, having left his girlfriend and another woman on the forecourt, decided to go back but found the road was blocked by the other car.

In his defence the court heard from a statement of Round's friend Robert Pigott, who was in the car with him.

He said to get past the blockage Round drove up onto the pavement where Mr Jones was standing, at around 25 mph, and subsequently struck him.

He suffered minor injuries and discharged himself from hospital that night.

Team up to tackle litter

COUNCILLORS, residents and volunteers teamed up for a litter pick in Hale-sowen. It took place around the KFC restaurant and Travelodge hotel and was organised by town MP James Morris.

More than 20 people, including volunteers from the Ahmadiyya Muslim Association, rolled up their sleeves to pick up rubbish from the side of the dual carriageway and the car park in Cobham Road. As well as 19 bags of litter, they recovered an abandoned sofa and fridge.

Water challenge

A GYM near Dudley is challenging runners to complete five minutes on an underwater treadmill for Breast Cancer Research. The 20 Physio centre, New Road, Swindon, will hold the event on July 13. Entry costs £5. To book, call 01902 898256 or email info@h2o-physio.co.uk



In her back room is Annie Johnson, aged 85, who has lived at her home in Hawthorne Road, Dudley 84 years



Daughter Patricia Hughes on the step of the house



Patricia pictured on the same step back in 1951

and there was room for Mr Johnson to live with his new wife. Mr Johnson passed away 24 years ago.

Children Patricia Hughes, now 64, Stephen, 61, and Robert, 57, were born there and Mrs Hughes

lived there with her husband before moving to a house of their own on nearby Poplar Crescent after their son was born. Mrs Johnson who has three children, eight grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren and four

great-great-grandchildren added: "I've always said it's a home for everybody and whenever one of them is in trouble they come here."

"It's our house, not my house."

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MP attacks merger of Mercian squadron

THE Royal Mercian and Lancastrian Yeomanry (RMLY), which has a squadron in Vicar Street, Dudley, and headquarters in Telford, is to split up to make way for a new Scottish and Northern Irish Yeomanry.

The Dudley unit will remain open and be part of a restructured Staffordshire, Warwickshire and Worcestershire Yeomanry.

A campaign to stop the breaking up of the regiment was launched by soldier's wife Hannah Bragg and backed by Dudley North MP Ian Austin.

He said he was disappointed and feared the move could put the long-term future of the town's army base in doubt.

"The RMLY was a popular and expanding regiment with deep roots in the local community," he said.

The Defence Secretary should have listened to the supporters and families of RMLY officers and reservists. "People in Dudley make an enormous contribution to the country through our local TA base."

Mrs Bragg, of Bucking-hamshire, whose husband Major Tom Bragg leads A Squadron, started an e-petition against the cuts which has been signed by more than 1,400 people.

Plea to join Race for Life

ORGANISERS of Race for Life event in Dudley have issued a rallying call for more women to sign up for the fundraiser – with more than 800 places left to fill.

It raises money for Cancer Research UK and the Himley Hall run normally attracts up to 4,000 people. The event at 3pm on July 14 is open to females of all ages and fitness abilities.

Sarah Southall, from Race For Life, said: "The morning session is full but we are still desperately short of women for the afternoon session." Go to racerforlife.org or call 0845 600 6050 to enter.

Singular play

A VICTORIAN theatre company will be performing at Haden Old Hall, Cradley Heath. Don't Go into the Cellar will stage The Singular Exploits of Sherlock Holmes on July 26 at 6pm and 8pm. Tickets cost £6 from Haden Hill House Museum.

Church trumpets joy after its £45k revamp



Mrs Gwen Gadd, the church's oldest member at 97, and Bethany Poole, of Coseley Comets marching band, with the Rev John Barrett and senior steward Mrs Audrey Ujma

THE £45,000 revamp of a chapel in Coseley is almost complete, as plans are drawn up for a dedication service.

Finishing touches are being put to Sodom Chapel, Upper Ettingshall Road. Rotten windows have been stripped and replaced and the building has been rendered with ceilings taken down and walls plastered.

Work began in April after the chapel secured £24,500 funding from landfill tax trust, Ibstock Cory Environmental Trust (ICET).

Treasurer Margaret Thomas said: "We were very pleased that ICET could

see how important the chapel was to the local community.

"We asked them for £24,500 to make all the repairs necessary and they quickly came back to us to tell us we could have the funds and could start repairing the chapel we love."

"We found that the work we needed to do was quite extensive and in the end cost £45,000, but we were grateful for donations from the chapel's congregation, fundraising and church funds to be able to complete the work."

"The final touches are now being made with the laying of new carpet and

then we will have a dedication service to celebrate the transformation of this church that once again looks refreshed, friendly and welcoming."

It was built in 1850 and nicknamed Sodom Chapel because of the bad reputation the area used to have. It is now used by groups and associations, including mother and toddlers, band practice and a community cafe.

Angela Haymonds, secretary of ICET said: "This chapel has a fascinating history of providing a focal point for the community, trustees were very pleased to fund the repairs."

Animal ban for couple who sold ill bulldog on Facebook

A COUPLE have been banned from keeping animals for 10 years after showing a 'callous disregard' for their ill British bulldog – which they sold on Facebook after failing to take it to a vet for treatment.

Joseph Salter and Cally Ricard, from Brierley Hill did not seek veterinary treatment for pet despite its fast deteriorating health while in their care, instead selling it for £80 after posting an advert on the social networking site.

The pair, who have now split up, had to help drag the six-year-old dog, called Molly, into the back of the buyers Joanne Bennett, of Halesowen, and Natalie Morris' car - and would not give over the ill dog until the cash was handed over.

Dudley Magistrates Court heard last week Salter showed the buyers into the back garden where the animal was lying on a dirty dog bed, which was soaking and mouldy.

The dog was suffering from a life-threatening uterine condition called pyometra, and would have died if Mrs Bennett and Mrs Morris did not pass it onto the RSPCA, according to the animal charity.

Salter, aged 22, of Lakeside Court, and Ricard, 23, of Woods Crescent, appeared for sentencing after both pleading guilty to failing to get veterinary care for the dog and failing in their duty as owners.

Mr John Fellows, chairman of the bench, disqualified the pair from keeping, looking after and owning any animal for 10 years each.

Attention

He also ordered them to pay £500 each toward a £4,761 bill from veterinary and court costs. They were also told to carry out 150 hours of unpaid work each.

Mrs Sutton, prosecuting, said: "These two people showed a callous disregard to the welfare of an animal."

"In this case they have not provided the dog with necessary veterinary treatment, then they attempted to sell it on top of that."

Mr Sutton told the court how the dog was brought to the attention of the RSPCA in February last year after Mrs Bennett and Mrs Morris saw a Facebook advert posted by the pair.

He said the two women, after seeing the condition the dog was in and where it was being kept, refused to leave without it and paid the cash to take it home.

But after feeding the dog and letting it rest overnight, the women noticed no improvement and took it to the RSPCA, where it made a full recovery.

Mrs Sutton said: "Had it not been for the action of the two women to put their hands

in their pockets and take the dog away it would have been dead – there is no shadow of a doubt about that."

Mr Sutton said: "This couple did not care for the dog's illness – they did nothing when it was blindingly obvious they should have done something."

When the women were shown into the couple's house, they described finding the dog on a cushion in the back garden with a mucky liquid coming from its body.

It hardly moved as they approached. Mr Sutton said: "The women described the dog as lethargic. They also couldn't believe how thin it was."

The situation caused so much distress to the women that one of them cried.

"They were determined to take the dog away from the address – but the defendant wouldn't release the animal until they paid the price for it."

"On taking the dog, it cowered down as they approached and the women needed the assistance of the defendants to put it into the back of the car."

Mr William Harrison, defending the former couple, said, although the dog should have been given veterinary care, its health had quickly deteriorated.

Afford

The couple, who said in interview they could not afford to take the dog to the vets, had inherited the pet from their landlord in December 2011.

After sentencing the couple, Mr Fellows said: "We commend the good citizenship of the two ladies who reported the matter to the RSPCA."

After the case, Mrs Bennett, aged 43, said: "This was a really great result."

"They may have thought they got away with it, but we weren't going to give up – I'd do that 100 times over if in the same position again."

Mrs Bennett said Molly had now fully recovered and was being looked after by Mrs Morris, aged 45.



Ten-year animal ban on Cally Ricard and Joseph Salter after selling sick pet dog



Joanne Bennett with a recovered Molly at Vets 4 Pet, Stourbridge Road, Halesowen

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NEWS

**THE BEST
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A RECYCLING centre in Smethwick is set ablaze by a Chinese lantern and our immediate response is to run around like headless chickens calling for a new law to ban such devices. For heaven's sake, we do not need any new laws. England has been passing laws for 1,000 years and the law against deliberately or recklessly starting fires is fully covered by the Criminal Damage Act. All we need is a prosecution or two to make the point that sending a naked flame aloft in a Chinese lantern is as reckless as lobbing a petrol bomb over your neighbour's fence.

□□□□□□□□

"IT WOULD be too much to say that death does not frighten me, but I have no fear of the hereafter because I do not believe in it." From the last interview by the Nobel-winning scientist Christian de Duve, 95, whose death by legally-assisted suicide in Belgium was reported this week. He went out, according to his family, with "a smile and a goodbye."

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AN INTERNET poll shows a big resurgence of "extreme retro" names from Victorian times. But we all grow old and one day today's young people, with names like Chardonnay, Sting, River and Waynetta, will become old people, living in homes where they will be cared for by young people called Mabel, Florence, Winifred and Stanley.

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"THE Conservatives' high priest of enthusiasm," Boris Johnson, as described this week by political pundit Benedict Brogan.

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AS anyone in academia will tell you, there are two great reasons to become a teacher, namely July and August. The long, sunny, six-week holidays are a relic from the time when kids were needed to bring in the harvest and are a huge attraction for would-be teachers. No wonder that union leaders are enraged by the Government's Deregulation Bill which will allow head teachers, not local authorities, to set term times and holidays. But I doubt if they have much to worry about. Most heads, like most teachers, want long holidays and a quiet life. The last thing they desire is to be pinned up against the wall by angry parents complaining that they can't juggle family holidays to suit a changed term. The most likely outcome is that schools in the same area will quietly agree on the same holidays and that any head who tries to introduce radical new short terms will get a flurry of resignation notes from the staffroom.

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WHAT rocked me slightly on my heels in the school-term reports was the passing reference to how many state schools there are in the UK. Go on, have a guess. The answer is about 25,000. In the internet age when all the world's knowledge, languages and culture are a mouse-click away, isn't it extraordinary that we have no better means of educating children than dragging them in batches of 30 through 14 years of lessons, at the end of which some can't even string a sentence together? There must be a better way.

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MEMORANDUM. From the White House, Washington, to EU Headquarters, Brussels: As a mark of goodwill, the United States Government hereby solemnly pledges that all electronic eavesdropping on the emails, offices, phone conversations and personal diaries of EU officials and politicians will cease as of 2000 hrs on Monday, July 15 (immediately after Angela Merkel's pedicure appointment).

□□□□□□□□

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Pupils nominate dedicated teacher



Mark Holder with Dan Brookes and Ellie Fradgley, who nominated him

A STOURBRIDGE teacher has been nominated for a national award in recognition for dedication to his pupils.

Mark Holder, a maths teacher at Old Swinford Hospital on Heath Lane, was selected by three of his students for the Pearson Teaching Awards, which thank teachers for making a significant difference to their students' lives.

The 55-year-old from Sedgley has been teaching at the boarding school for 11 years and is also assistant director of the sixth-form.

He was nominated by students

Ellie Fradgley, Dan Brookes and Luke Woodall, all aged 18.

Ellie said she voted for Mr Holder because he has a passion for maths while Dan said he has "endless time and patience for his students".

Delighted

Luke said: "He has given me and many others so much support in the last year, I can't thank him enough."

Mr Holder said he was delighted to have been nominated and hopes to encourage many more students to study maths. He added: "It's

always lovely to get a card or note of thanks at the end of the course, but to be nominated for an award like this is very special."

"It is a privilege to share the subject I love with each new generation of students."

Headteacher Peter Jones said: "Mr Holder is completely dedicated and devoted to his duties as a teacher in the classroom and as assistant director of sixth form."

"He is an outstanding role model for all young people and in my opinion, a truly exceptional and inspirational education professional."

Housing discount for the military

TWO Black Country housing developments are offering special discounts to the country's military servicemen and women.

Houses in Gornal and West Bromwich will be discounted by £500 for every £25,000, meaning a £250,000 property would be reduced by £5,000.

David Wilson Homes is developing the houses at Brecon View in Holloway Street, Gornal, and Churchfields Place on All Saint's Way, West Bromwich.

Steve Barton, senior sales manager for David Wilson Merica, said: "This country rightly celebrates the achievements of its Armed Forces which many regard as the best in the world."

For more information call 0844 811 3322 or go to the website www.dwh.co.uk

Revamp of bus stations in £81m transport plan

THE run-down bus station at Merry Hill shopping centre will get a £3 million revamp as part of a £81m transport plan for the region.

Work is being funded by bus firm National Express and transport authority Centro and will see a new building and bus numbers should increase by 25 per cent. Work is due to be finished at the Brierley Hill complex by the end of summer 2014.

It is part of £10m worth of work around the Merry Hill area including new vehicles.

Dudley bus station will also be revamped in plans welcomed by leading councillors in the borough.

Dudley Council leader David Sparks said: "Any improvements to public transport in Dudley borough is to be welcomed especially with regards Merry Hill."

Opposition Conservative leader Councillor Patrick Harley added: "These plans have been around for a while so it will be good to see them come to fruition for the regeneration of Dudley linked with the redevelopment of Cavendish House nearby. The bus station in Dudley has long needed an overhaul as it is no longer user-friendly."

Peter Bond, Head of Transforming Bus Travel at Centro said: "Passengers will have real time information and an improved waiting area and we are looking to put screens in the shopping centre to provide

by Andrew Turton

the most up to date details."

He also said the refurbishment of Dudley bus station was scheduled to take place by 2015 including new waiting facilities, toilets and passenger information but further details were still to be confirmed.

The overall deal, which sees £65m of investment by National Express and £16m by Centro, will also deliver 300 new buses, including 15 environmentally friendly hybrids, 350 new bus shelters and more 'talking busses' with audio visual equipment.

London-style smartcards will also be introduced across the National Express West Midlands bus network.

Dean Finch, chief executive of National Express said: "We will build on the improvements we have already made in the West Midlands including investment in new vehicles and more on-bus cleaners as well as an expansion of smart-card ticketing."

MP Kelly is bitten by dog

A WEST Midland MP suffered an occupational hazard of the job when he was bitten by a dog while canvassing.

Dudley North MP Chris Kelly was posting a campaign leaflet through a letterbox in Ploverdale Crescent on June 14 when the dog leaped up behind the door and bit his fingers. "It hurt like hell," Mr Kelly said. "But it was all in the line of duty." The Conservative MP was with Dudley Councillor Patrick Harley when he was bitten, said: "I suspect its owners are Labour supporters."

Stowaway gecko's 5,000-mile trip



Marian Humphries holds the gecko in a pint glass next to the fruit bowl sent by her son



The stowaway gecko

WHEN Marian Humphries opened the birthday present her son had brought home from Southeast Asia, the last thing she expected to see was a pair of tiny eyes looking up at her.

But a gecko had managed to sneak into the gift before travelling more than 5,000 miles to Dudley.

The three-inch reptile, which has brown markings, survived two long-haul flights wrapped up in the parcel in a suitcase.

The gecko had hitched a lift with her son Jamie who has been living in Myanmar, where he runs a wood carving firm, for the past 10 years.

Ms Humphries, aged 70,

caterina and was wrapped and inside was this gecko.

"I couldn't believe my eyes when I saw it. It's absolutely exquisite and so tiny. I think it's incredible that it travelled so far."

"My son was also very surprised as he didn't know how it had got in there."

Retired Ms Humphries, who lives in Regent Street, is now caring for the gecko but hopes to find it a permanent home.

"I would love to keep it as it is a beautiful creature but I don't know anything about geckos."

"It really was the most unusual but also unexpected present. It was the icing on the cake of a great birthday."

Icons mural to brighten up archives

DUDLEY'S most recognisable sights will brighten up the new archives and local history centre.

A mural has been created by local residents and features icons such as Dudley Zoo and Castle, Mary Stevens Park, the Duncan Edwards statue, the Titanic anchor as well as the new archives and local history centre itself.

It was completed and handed over by a team of adult learners working from Artspace, a community project offering adult learners and families workshops in the arts.

Once the new borough archives and local history centre has been handed over to the council by the contractor G F Tomlinson in August, the mural, which is 9ft by 5ft, will be on display in centre's exhibition area.

Police target village speed

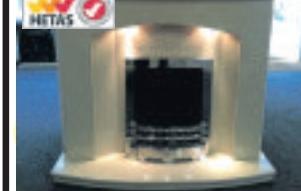
SPEEDING drivers cutting through villages near Stourbridge to avoid main-road traffic are being targeted by police following concerns raised by communities.

West Mercia Police officers are setting up check-points in Hagley, Clent and Belbroughton and to raise awareness of speed limits and prosecute offenders.

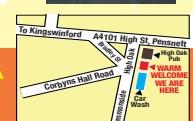
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Members of family attacked teenager

THREE members of a family have been found guilty of savagely attacking a 16-year-old boy, battering him with bricks, sticks and a baseball bat, after accusing him of throwing stones at their home.

Gareth Attwood, 21, and Andrew Attwood, 46, of Fens Crescent, along with Aaron Attwood, 23, of Westwood Street, all Brierley Hill, will be sentenced this month after being convicted of wounding.

The jury at Wolverhampton Crown Court heard the three attacked the teenager and his friend, 19, at Fens Pool Nature Reserve, in Pensnett, Brierley Hill, on July 15 last year.

The two friends had fled to the reserve at around 3.15pm having been chased there by the Attwoods, who accused them of throwing stones at the family home, in Fens Crescent.

During the attack, the 16-year-old from Kingswinford was left unconscious having been held down and battered with bricks, sticks and a baseball bat.

His jaw and a finger were broken and a tooth was knocked out. His back and arm were also severely bruised. His friend suffered non-serious injuries to his legs.

DC John Horrobin said: "Thanks to the bravery of the two teenagers and other witnesses, Gareth and Aaron Attwood, along with their father Andrew, were identified as the attackers." Gareth and Aaron Attwood were remanded in custody.

Andrew Attwood was released on bail.

Praise for homes team

A COUNCIL team which helps vulnerable, older and disabled people in Dudley to make repairs and improvements to their homes has been presented with a national award.

Dudley Council's home improvement service received a commendation from the Foundations Annual Home Improvement Agency at a ceremony at the House of Lords.

The team was praised for its efforts in tackling the problem of fuel poverty.

Councillor Steve Walther, cabinet member for housing, said: "I am very pleased the work that our home improvement service has done over the last year."

Switching on to new station for community



Jonathon Knight, technical director Tom Walker and presenter Karen Watton

A NEW community radio station will be hitting the airwaves when Black Country Community Radio is launched on August 1 and broadcast from studios in Dudley.

While the radio station will initially be broadcast online, PC, tablet and mobile devices, station boss David Brownhill hopes to apply for full licence from media regulator Ofcom later this year.

Mr Brownhill, aged 55, said Ofcom had restricted the number of organisations applying for FM frequencies, due to a shortage in the area. The chance later this year will be the first opportunity to apply since 2005.

He said: "There are currently over 200 licenced community radio stations in the

country and radio bosses are hoping that their application for a community radio station to promote the central and northern Black Country would be successful.

"Community radio is real local radio which the community can really get involved in and relate to the issues and places broadcast on air. The Black Country is a great community to live with some great characters and we hope to be broadcasting their stories and humour."

If the application is approved there are plans to move the station's studio to Dudley town centre, something Mr Brownhill said has already been discussed with council officials. The station aims to cater for the area not covered by The Bridge in Stourbridge,

including Springvale and Bilston East in Wolverhampton, Tipton, Great Bridge and Tividale in Sandwell, Swindon, Himley and Wombourne in South Staffordshire.

It will also cover a wide area in Dudley, from Sedgley and Coseley East, through Gornal to Netherton, Brockmoor, Pensnett and Kingswinford.

Dudley North MP Ian Austin said: "I think Dave's plans are brilliant. A community radio station in Dudley would be a great way of bringing the community together, promoting local charities and community groups and highlighting the great things that happen in the town every week."

"I'm doing all I can to support him and his team."

NEWS

in brief

Petition against power plant plan

OPPOSITION to a proposed recycling plant in Brierley Hill is hotting up after a petition with 350 names was handed into Dudley Council.

Clean Power wants to build the plant, which would generate electricity for 10,000 homes, on disused land near a railway line, off Moor Street.

It has submitted a planning application but residents near the site have mounted a campaign against it. They fear it would lead to an increase in traffic, release odours and blight the landscape.

Councillor Rachel Harris, who handed in the petition, said: "It is a waiting game now."

MP makes plea to boost schools

DUDLEY North MP Ian Austin will meet the Education Secretary as part of a campaign to boost school standards in the borough.

He will talk to Michael Gove after raising concerns that just two of the seven schools in his constituency achieved the national average for five good GCSEs in 2012.

He has called for a Black Country Challenge to help transformed standards and exam results.

During a debate in the Commons, Mr Gove promised he would do everything he could to ensure all the elements that made a successful challenge applied to schools in his constituency through 'collaboration and a culture of excellence'.

Summer fair to help pay for trip

A SUMMER fair will be held at the Grange Hill House residential home in Bromsgrove Road, Halesowen on July 14 from 2pm to 4pm.

There will be stalls selling cakes, jewellery and bric-a-brac, as well as a raffle.

Proceeds will help pay for residents' day trips out.

Festival declared

LYE Cricket Club has teamed up again with local brewery Sadler's Ales to host the fourth annual Black Country Beer festival.

The event will run

from August 22 and 24 at the club in Stourbridge Road.

Admission is £10

including a festival glass

and £5 of drinks vouchers.

Red is dead as number's up for the iconic phone kiosks

THE age of the mobile has set the seal of doom on another 50 old-fashioned telephone kiosks around the West Midlands, as BT plans to cut them off for good.

But a handful of iconic red phone boxes in the Black Country will escape the axe – because they are classed by English Heritage as 'listed buildings'.

They will continue to be a beacon of days gone by, when most people relied on them to keep in touch before the days of mobiles, the internet, Facebook, Twitter and Skype.

Nationally BT has removed 33,000 kiosks from the 'street furniture' in towns and villages over the last decade because mass use of mobile phones has made them obsolete.

And now 1,000 more are to be removed across the country, including 50 in the West Midlands. BT has not yet decided which of its 1,746 kiosks across the region will disappear – but 12 red phone boxes in the Black Country and Birmingham will be safe because of their 'listed' status.

Listed

These include two outside the old County Court in Hagley Road, Stourbridge, which were first 'listed' in 1989, and two next to the Town Hall in West Bromwich.

They are of the 'K6' variety, designed by Sir Giles Gilbert Scott in 1935 for the silver jubilee of King George V.

The model became a symbol of Britain the world over and was adopted by colonies such as Malta, Bermuda and Gibraltar.

Not that you would know the Stourbridge ones were considered precious – they are currently looking down-at-heel with missing panes of glass.

But after their condition was reported to BT by the Chronicle's sister paper, the Express & Star, they are now set for repairs.

David Hickman, who was Stourbridge's librarian for 32 years and is secretary of the town's Historical Society, said: "The K6 red phone boxes were certainly part of my life.

"These two by the county court were just along the road from the old Stourbridge Library – and it's right that we keep them. "I also support them being maintained – they shouldn't be allowed to disintegrate."

Mr Hickman, aged 66, who confesses even he has moved into the 'mobile' age, added: "I



David Hickman outside the old County Court in Stourbridge with two Grade II listed phone boxes that are being saved

do understand that gradually there is less call for phone boxes. But it's important to retain some of them – they are part of our heritage."

BT spokesman Emma Tennant said: "Over 12,000 payphones make less than one call per month – over 70 per cent are unprofitable. BT has removed 33,000 kiosks over the last decade. We plan to remove 1,000 more across the UK of which around 50 are likely to be in the West Midlands.

"Some will have already been removed.

"Due to the huge reduction in payphone

use, alongside the massive rise in mobile phones, BT is able to remove any kiosk that has another one within 400 metres. "If there is no other kiosk within 400 metres we need to consult with the local authority."

Pledged

She added that a total of 81 K6 red phone boxes remain in the West Midlands. And she hoped that action would now be taken to repair the damaged Stourbridge kiosks as soon as possible.

In Belbroughton, near Stourbridge, vil-

lagers came up with the novel idea of adopting their village High Street phone kiosk – and turning it into one of the smallest libraries in the world.

Called the Belbroughton Book Exchange, villagers keep it stocked up and borrow books, replacing them with their own used volumes.

A redundant box in Banner Street, Halesowen, was given a facelift and used for a short time as an art gallery hosting an exhibition of paintings, photographs and sculptures.

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NEWS



IN MY VIEW
WITH
MARK
ANDREWS

FORMER Cabinet minister Jack Straw says MPs should be given a £10,000-a-year pay rise in order to attract more candidates from working-class backgrounds.

He's not wrong. Talk to anybody living in one of the less affluent parts of the West Midlands and the message is always the same. People always say: "I'd really love to be an MP. I believe I have something to offer my constituents. But the thing is, I couldn't get by on 66 grand a year."

□□□□□

THE idea to give MPs a whopping great pay rise came not from the honourable members themselves, but from the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, the body set up at a cost of £6.6 million to restore the public's confidence in MPs.

But given that the proposals from IPSA, already under fire over its own running costs, have so far only managed to stoke up the controversy about MP's salary, here is an alternative idea.

Why not do away with all the expensive independent bodies, and simply link MPs' pay to inflation, just like they do with the state pension?

Of course there will be a debate about which measure of inflation is used, but the answer to that is easy. Just go for the lowest one.

See? I've solved the problem already, and at a fraction of the millions of pounds spent on IPSA. Just send me a cheque in the post for, I dunno, £66,000 a year. That should cover it.

□□□□□

Congratulations to Andy Murray for becoming the first Briton in 77 years to win Wimbledon. But can we now leave it at that?

While the patriot in me is pleased to see somebody from these fair islands win a major sporting event, I didn't like tennis last week, and I'm not going to pretend I like it this week.

I've always taken the view that tennis is a bit of a soft sport, with too many highly strung, temperamental types who throw tantrums the moment the going gets a bit tough. On the other hand, it brings a lot of pleasure to many people, and it is good that they have something to celebrate.

There is something very unsportsmanlike, though, about the way some people just jump on the bandwagon of any particular sport the moment a big international competition comes along, particularly if somebody from this country does well at it.

It was the same with the Olympics last year. Who was interested in cycling before Bradley Wiggins' triumph in the Tour de France? How many people who deck out their houses with red-and-white bunting at World Cup time will bother to turn out to local football grounds?

It will be interesting to see how many people caught up in the hysteria of Murray-mania will be paying such close attention to the US Open in a couple of months.



Steve McHugh in his Co-Op day job



Gunner McHugh, Plant and Grosvenor dressed and ready for action



Ross Grosvenor at work at Brindley

TA to the soldiers who back up regular Army

DANIEL WAINWRIGHT looks at the unsung volunteer reservists who combine their duties with a full-time job

THEY are the weekend warriors training to back up Britain's military.

They hold down full time jobs and spend their evenings and many of their weekends training all over the country to handle harsh terrain and the pressure of being under fire.

One of the Territorial Army reservists, Abby Plant works in finance for environmental consultancy Adas in Pendeford. The 24-year-old from Codsall spends her weekdays in an office but on Saturdays gets up at 5am, dresses in camouflage gear and carries a heavy rucksack to run up and down hills in Surrey.

This week she takes her exams as part of her accounting technician diploma.

At the weekend Gunner Plant of 106 (Yeomanry) Regiment Royal Artillery may have to carry a backpack weighing 20kg (44lb) six miles within 90 minutes, sleep out in the open in Salisbury or drive Land Rovers the way they were built to be driven - off road.

Physically

Former Codsall High School pupil Gunner Plant, of Bromley Gardens, said: "It's an exciting life. It's exhausting and it can take it out of you, but you always feel that you've accomplished something."

"I wasn't particularly physically fit when I joined but I thought if I don't do this now I'll keep putting it off," she added.

Now she is at the gym two or three times a week and is part of a running club with her fellow soldiers.

She walks the several miles to work each morning and then runs home in the evening.

Over the past decade the Territorial Army has deployed 26,000 reservists



Abby Plant combines her TA role with a financial job near Wolverhampton

including 22,000 to Iraq and Afghanistan. A tour of duty lasts six months but follows three months of full time, intensive training. In that time 30 have been killed.

The Army is reducing the number of regular Army soldiers from 102,000 down to 82,000. Some serving soldiers are being put on notice that they are facing redundancy and the government is prepared to spend £1.8 billion to expand the TA to fill the void.

As well as the weekend commitments there is the prospect that one day Abby will find herself overseas alongside

regular army soldiers. Her parents Nick, aged 53 and Vicki, 51, understand what the role involves, as does her employer. However, there are legal protections that ensure a job is kept open for any TA soldier who goes on a tour.

When the Army needs Territorial soldiers, it goes through a process called mobilisation. Territorials are only called up if the army needs them.

They or their employers can object if it would seriously affect their lives or work.

Abby joined the TA two and a half years ago on the same day as Ross

Grosvenor from Walsall. Gunner Grosvenor, aged 21, works as a service adviser at the Brindley Nissan garage in Dala Way, Cannock.

He lives with his parents Simon, 51 - who also served in the TA with the Staffordshire Regiment - and Lynn, 53, in Pelsall. He has a sister, Zoe, aged 17.

On Tuesdays he finishes his 8am to 6pm shift, polishes off a sandwich or microwavable ready meal and heads off to The TA site in Fallings Park, Wolverhampton where he is with the Air Defence Unit of 106 Regiment Royal Artillery. "I'd always had an ambition to be a pilot", he said.

"After I left Queen Mary's Grammar School in Walsall I applied to the Royal Air Force. But when I got to Cranwell they said I lacked life experience by wanting to join straight from school.

"I joined the TA and following 12 months of training passed out in January last year.

"On Tuesdays we will do any sort of training from first aid to vehicle checks and weapon handling skills," he added.

Weekends

"Sometimes we will devote a whole session to fitness assessments, including how many press ups we can do. I'm on the regiment shooting team which goes away on competitions to places like the Salish Plains."

"Going away with the TA takes place one or two weekends a month," Gunner Grosvenor said. "We also do a one to two week camp every year. I'm allowed to take the time off from work unpaid."

His colleague Gunner Steve McHugh, aged 23, has been with the TA for five years. He works at the Co-Op petrol station in Wombourne.

His work with the TA saw him spend three months in London during the Olympics, supporting the regular army and seeing the Paralympics opening ceremony. He said: "For me it's a social life as well as work."

● For details on joining the TA visit army.mod.uk or call 0845 600 8080.

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THROUGH THE YEARS

1983...

COMEDIAN Lenny Henry found it no laughing matter when he turned up to open the wrong summer fete in Dudley. Lenny turned up to open the Burton Road Hospital fete when he should have been six miles away at the Corbett Hospital, Stourbridge.

ATTENDANCE at Wolverhampton's four public baths spiralled as the region sizzled in 90 degree temperatures. More than 9,000 people used the Bilston, Bushbury, Central and Heath Town baths in the first week of July.

A SCHOOL leaver from Lower Gornal planned to beat the dole crew by creating a high-flying job for himself - washing aeroplanes. David Carter started cleaning planes for the West Midlands Flight Centre at Halfpenny Green airport after leaving Ellows Hall School.

1993....

A £260,000 project aimed at stopping youngsters from becoming car thieves was launched in Wolverhampton. Project leader Simon Brittain said he hoped the scheme for 12 to 18-year-olds would steer young people in the right direction.

A MOTORIST was hailed a hero after dragging a Wolverhampton pensioner out of his smoke-filled bungalow. But the mystery samaritan, who also pulled a burning chair out of the East Park property, disappeared before anyone could thank him.

SIXTH-form pupils from a girls' school at Brewood appeared before Wolverhampton magistrates - in a mock trial. The teenagers at St Dominic's were involved in the event as part of a scheme to raise social awareness.

2003...

THREE Wolverhampton teachers hoped to scale new heights when they set off on the gruelling Three Peaks Challenge. They aimed to climb Scotland's Ben Nevis, England's Scafell Pike and Wales' Snowdon in 24 hours.

FIREFIGHTERS extinguishing a blazing car were left stunned when it took off - without any driver. The crew were left baffled when the car, believed to be stolen, mysteriously started racing down the field and performed a U-turn before shuddering to a halt.

PUPILS and staff at Kings School in Tettenhall had a hair-raising experience to raise money for charity. Brightly-coloured wigs, shaved heads and unique cuts were on show as they raised £500 for Barnardos.

LETTERS**Poor attendances? Council to blame**

IT saddened me to read of the heavy losses made by the fall in attendances at the Black Country Living Museum.

I am sure both Dudley Zoo and the nearby Dudley Canal Trust have similar problems and would like to see more people coming through the turnstiles in order for them all to survive this harsh economic world we live in.

But I am afraid this is where I have to point the finger at the lack of foresight Dudley Council had when they decided to refuse permission to grant the Dudley Heathens Speedway team to

have a stadium to call their home built within the land available close by.

Not only are the Heathens one of the best teams in their league. Fans from all around the UK come to watch their teams compete against the Heathens, and what a golden opportunity it could have been for the local economy had those fans been given the chance to visit the area and make a day of it by visiting any of the attractions within the vicinity? Many other uses could have been made of a stadium.

As for access, what could be any

easier for visitors, we have three major motorway junctions, shopping is good, there are at least five large hotels nearby, a good choice of restaurants and pubs, all of which would benefit from having more visitors to the area?

So come on Dudley Council, wake up and grab the chance to revitalise the whole of the area before it becomes just another ghost town on the map, or is that what you want to happen?

MIKE THOMPSON
Bryan Budd Close
Rowley Regis

Fancy plans but nothing happens

SAD to hear that WH Smith in Dudley is to close but not surprised. Those charged with regeneration are failing. We keep hearing fancy plans but nothing happens.

When is the market going to be tartered up? Where are these supermarkets who are falling over themselves to open up? The town is dying and those charged with breathing new life into it seem to be putting an awful lot of faith in things like knocking down loo so we can all see the castle. We need a sports stadium for the Heathens, a railway station and better parking.

ELLIE SHAW
Forest Road
Dudley

It's all just dreams

WHY does Dudley Council keep with this dream of revamping Dudley town centre? They spend thousands, have surveys and then block paving something and it will still have no "big name" shops, so will have no visitors. So ends another cycle of the town centre game. If the council is serious about making Dudley a place to visit it really ought to think about closing Merry Hell.

TREVOR BRADLEY
Kingswinford

LETTERS to the Editor**POST**

Dudley Chronicle, Chronicle Editorial, 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton WV1 1ES

E-MAIL

Dudley.chrons@expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number of the writer. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Be careful parents

I WOULD like to ask the parents of the children at Red Hall Primary School, Lower Gornal, to think carefully where they park their cars. This week alone we have seen some very near misses with children almost getting run over.

I fear it will take a terrible tragedy before any changes are made. Zoar Street is very busy and a lot of parents are parking on this road, right by the school drive and crossing. Children are coming out of school and not being seen by careless drivers who are in a hurry. The parking is limited in Gornal and I appreciate that, as I am a parent who drives too, but surely the safety of our children is more important?

A number of parents have contacted Sedgley police and asked them for help and to come and see for themselves, but so far no one has been. Parents, if you are reading this please think carefully, next time it could be your child.

Name and address supplied

Farmers' market without farmers

ONE vegetable stall and a delicatessen stall does not constitute a farmers' market. What was the farmer's market, is now a variety of stalls, selling products that you can find in the numerous charity shops and other retailers in the town. Halesowen Town does not benefit from this, it degrades the town. The market has been taken over, and the township council has laid back and died. Where are the farmers? Gone!

R BLACKWOOD, Abberley Close, Halesowen

No more of this dog mess

I SHOULD be most grateful if those whose dog kindly leaves a present for me on the footpath outside my house, would leave their name and address also, in order that I may have the gift wrapped and returned to him or her or them.

I really don't want anymore. Can you kindly walk your dog elsewhere, preferably in your own garden? Perhaps said person is illiterate and cannot read the signs about dog fouling, or do they not really care?

LEN HALLES
Halesowen Road
Cradley Heath

How I miss Lee

I LOST a friend last week, Lee Wilson, and I am missing him so much. He was a multi-talented and respected artiste who supported me when I lost John, Aylly, and encouraged me to carry on when I was on the verge of packing it in. He pointed over his shoulder and said: "Get out there chap, yo core stop work – you have me to lean on." When he walked in to a dressing room, the place lit up.

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NEWS

Time for a big break as snooker club up for sale

THEY started out with 300 members and five snooker tables.

Now, 31 years after opening, Dudley Snooker and Pool Club bosses Margaret and Graham Morris can boast 3,000 members and 19 tables.

But the couple, who have seen stars such as Ronnie O'Sullivan and Peter Ebdon compete at the club, are now looking to retire and are selling the club.

The pair, who started the club on recommendation from snooker player-turned-commentator Willie Thorne, say the strain of running the operation full-time was becoming too much.

They have, however, pledged to stay on until a buyer for the two-storey club, which is on the market for £149,950, is found.

Entertainment

Mrs Morris, aged 68, said: "We've had a fantastic time running the club and have met so many great people, including some who have gone on to be big stars. But now we're ready to give it up and pass it on. I just want to ensure it stays on as a snooker club."

"There is only one club left in the town and many members rely on us for socialising and entertainment."

The couple decided to start the club after Mr Morris, now aged 70, had to give up his job as a truck driver and, while working in the betting trade, received a tip-off from Willie Thorne that a snooker club was a good business to start up. Initially renting the upstairs of the club in Stafford Road, they soon received an influx of members and were then offered the chance to buy the entire building.

They created a bar downstairs and brought in more tables. At its height



Taking a break – owners Margaret and Graham Morris who are retiring



The club back in the 1980s

10 years ago, the club had 4,000 members and players in three local leagues. It sponsored national youth tournaments and received visits from many upcoming stars including Ronnie O'Sullivan, Peter Ebdon, and Stephen Hendry.

Mrs Morris said: "The club hit off quickly and soon we were very busy."

"It proved very successful, not just with the older people but also youngsters who wanted to get into the sport. Today, popularity has dropped, but it is still busy here and there is plenty of potential for the club's future."

Over the years, the couple have enlisted the help of their son Jayson, who was a professional snooker player and daughter Helen MacRae.

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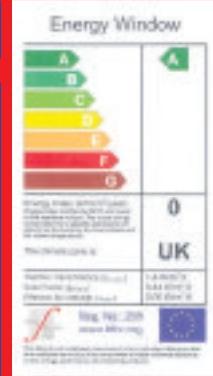
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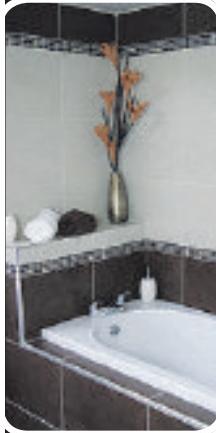
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Established since 1994, Tipton Windows & Conservatories Ltd, trading as Choices, believes that the latest trends are important, but quality products and exceptional service will always be paramount, which this family run business have proven over nearly two decades.

Sited on Sedgley Road West in Tipton, the founder and company Managing Director Nathan Beddows started the business from scratch at the early age of 19 working out of the very same premises as he does today. He explains his passion:

"I cannot stress enough how much pride we take in every window, door, conservatory, orangery we manufacture and install."

With its roots in manufacturing, the business started more than 19 years ago, and right from the very start an emphasis has been placed on supplying only the finest and most energy-efficient products, but still remaining affordable.

"Our commitment extends beyond the manufacturing process to the design and installation of doors, windows, conservatories and other home improvement services," explains Nathan.

"For some customers we supply new windows and doors, for others we provide a complete home improvement service from building extensions and fitting kitchens, to designing and

installing conservatories and more recently Orangeries," says Nathan.

One tremendously satisfied customer is Rick Houghton. Having being recommended to Choices windows by colleagues at work he employed them to carry out extensive work at his home, he is keen to share his experiences and commend the team involved.

"Every stage of the process was excellently planned and we received nothing but the best service from start to finish. The tradesmen were outstanding and we were so impressed that we handed over our keys and went on holiday whilst the work was being carried out."

Rick and his family were absolutely thrilled and utterly delighted with the results on their return.

"We are so grateful to Nathan and his team for transforming our home into something we could only have dreamed of," remarked Rick.

Keen to keep ahead in the style stakes, Nathan is ever aware of the latest designs, materials and colours on offer, and strives to make these available to his customers.

"Many people are now opting for stylish coloured PVC-U, influenced by timeless muted 'National Trust' tones. Sage green, gun metal grey and cream are all becoming very fashionable alongside the traditional clean bright white," explains Nathan.

Fitting new PVC-U windows can be a good choice for the environment as well as for your home. Replacing dated double glazing can help save money on heating bills and reduce the carbon footprint of a residence.

"We offer A-rated energy-efficient windows and doors which can help save up to £250 from heating bills in the first year alone. They not only reflect heat back into the house, but also retain heat from solar gain," remarks Nathan.

"As a company we pride ourselves on giving old fashioned value for money and excellent service, we can undertake the majority of jobs and because we manufacture in house at our premises unlike the majority of our local competitors it enables us to have full control so we can manage your project from start to completion ensuring your experience is stress free".

"After many years in the Double glazing business we have seen a lot of competitors come and go, unfortunately leaving many customers without any warranty, after parting with their hard earned cash. Any customer who is considering having any home improvements should choose carefully and do their homework on the company they are considering, ensure if you part with money upfront it is protected by a Fensa approved deposit indemnity scheme, ask to visit previous customers but most importantly don't be fooled by the salesmen's tactics of a tempting 'sign on the night low price offer' that the double glazing industry is notorious for" advises Nathan.

The old sayings are always the best - after a low price is long forgotten, poor quality long remains".

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makeovers, but our high-quality prosthetics have quite literally taken years off some of our patients," he said.

"People have come to us with ill-fitting dentures, sunken cheeks and pinched lips and we have been privileged to transform their looks. Can dentures be glamorous? Emphatically yes."

"We are on the cusp of development, so that those who entrust their smile to us can be sure they will be advised on best options."

Steven's work has attracted people from all walks of life, including a former SAS mountain warfare specialist, an airline pilot, a multi-millionaire with his own jet, health professionals and "ordinary

salt-of-the-earth people from the Black Country." The clinic's prosthetics, hand-crafted at laboratories at the Dudley and Wolverhampton practices, have also found satisfied patients from as far away as Spain and Portugal. And the secret of his success? A seamless service to clients, where clinical assessment and the crafting of prescriptions are all in-house.

"It's a simple formula," said Steven, "but it has allowed me to be fastidious about the quality and we will never compromise on best clinical outcomes."

He admitted that denture wearers are one of the most challenging groups to treat successfully.

"I believe many of them have had a bad deal for years, but we are in the vanguard of changing outcomes and hopefully changing some lives for the better too," said Steven.

Steven draws on more than 30 years' experience in all disciplines of dental technology to produce his hallmark "functional, natural-looking teeth."

Having completed his training as a dental technician and started his own laboratory, Steven enrolled on a three-and-a-half year CDT training course with the George Brown College in Toronto, Canada, to enable him to work in his dental discipline independently of a dentist.

Graduating with honours, Steven undertook a further year's study under the auspices of The Royal College of Surgeons.

Options

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NEWS

People to have say over tax cuts for vulnerable

RESIDENTS of Dudley are being consulted on proposals for how much council tax bills are reduced for vulnerable people and low-income families.

Dudley Council is seeking views on three options for the reduction offered to taxpayers in the borough.

The choices are a 20 per cent, an 8.5 per cent or no reduction at all.

The council's cabinet have formally recommended 8.5 per cent as the preferred option but no decision will be taken until after the public consultation.

The council grants around £24 million in council tax reductions to around 33,500 households as part of its scheme and receives around 90 per cent of this back from the Government.

The reduction works out to an average £13.54 per week or £704 per year.

Chiefs will now be asking the public whether it should be reducing the £2.4 million contribution from its own funds that is helping to protect vulnerable families from increases in their council tax bills.

It follows the Government's changes to the welfare benefits system.

Cabinet member for finance, Councillor Pete Lowe said: "As local government finance continues to be under severe pressure, and as a result of our Big Question consultation exercise we remain fully committed to listening to the views of our residents."

The consultation will start next month and a decision will follow later this year.

Wallaby house fire

A FIRE broke out in the wallaby house at Dudley Zoo last week – but all seven of the Parma wallabies escaped any injuries. Two staff at the zoo used fire extinguishers when the animals' straw bedding caught fire from an electric heater at the Castle Hill tourist attraction.

Deacons head for parishes



Newly ordained – the Revs Bridget Woodall and Tom Fish

AN EX-SOCIAL worker and a former agnostic will be serving in parishes in Dudley and Stourbridge after they were ordained.

The Rev Bridget Woodall and the Rev Tom Fish were made deacons at a ceremony at Worcester Cathedral and will enter their first year of training as curates.

Miss Woodall, aged 47, who was born in Yorkshire, will move to Quarry Bank from St John's College in Nottingham.

Before training for ordination, she spent 20 years working for social services and then for The Children's Society, before becoming a fundraising manager for the charity.

She said: "In my job fundraising

for the Children's Society, I was invited to visit and speak at many local parish churches.

"It was during this time that I began to feel called to full-time ordained ministry.

"I am looking forward to exploring a new part of the country and serving the people in Quarry Bank as I start my role as assistant curate."

Mr Fish rejected Christianity at the age of 17, but four years later he had a conversion. He will serve at Christ Church in Lye.

He said: "I am passionate about the local church and long for it to be a place where people can come as they really are."

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www.travelstyletours.co.uk**NEWS****Parking trial forced us to move shop – florist**

Rob Mantle, at his new shop in Dudley Road, Brierley Hill. He says parking restrictions forced him out of High Street

BOSSES of a flower shop claim a trial parking scheme in Brierley Hill town centre made it 'impossible' for them to remain at High Street.

Flowers Now @ BHF has moved a short distance from High Street to Dudley Road – a decision owners Rob and Diana Mantle say was pushed on them by the new parking regulations.

Dudley Council brought in the £100,000 trial in February in a bid to cut congestion and provide quick parking for shoppers.

It saw the introduction of four bays for hour-long unloading and parking, plus four spaces for disabled parking.

A full parking ban will be introduced down the opposite length of the street.

Mrs Mantle, aged 52, said: "We have

found it impossible to carry on the business on High Street following the new parking arrangements. With no rear access to the premises to load and unload the vehicle outside the premises it has not been possible to carry on."

"Cars have been parked along the high street consistently, often for more than the time restrictions due to spasmodic visits by parking control."

Refurbished

"Also receiving deliveries has become impossible – many other traders on High Street are experiencing the same problems."

The couple's new base is within the newly-refurbished Acorn House.

A hairstylist and beauty centre is also expected to open within the house later this year.

Mrs Mantle said: "The move is

much-needed for us to showcase our brand and will enable customers the freedom of onsite parking when collecting their orders and will alleviate the loading and delivery problems experienced on the High Street."

Councillor Judy Foster, former cabinet member for transport on Dudley Council, was behind the trial scheme, which is set to end in August.

She claimed the florist was the only business to oppose the parking scheme, and that Mr and Mrs Mantle had already made the decision to move before the trial came in.

She added she had authorised more parking inspectors to patrol High Street.

She said: "The trial scheme has been very well received by the traders, only the florists had made representations to me against it."

Old library room gets new lease of art life

A ROOM that formerly housed Netherton Library has been given a new lease of life as an art exhibition and performance centre.

It had been based at Netherton Arts Centre in Northfield Road since 1894.

But the library was moved to the Savoy Centre, a business and learning centre, in Northfield Road, under cutting plans last year.

Now the room used at the arts centre has been converted into a space for art exhibitions, workshops, schools displays, arts workshops and performance area for small music events.

The Old Library Room will be launched with an exhibition by installation artist Paul Gittins on July 19.

Creative

Dudley Council cabinet member for children's services, Councillor Tim Crumpton, said: "This type of exhibition experience is invaluable for students looking to pursue a career in the visual arts."

"Dudley is full of creative industries and this opportunity will help to secure a platform for artists in the borough."

The council said it had relocated the library to make the service more efficient and to help save cash, but it was controversial.

Anyone interested in having an exhibition in the space at the Old Library Room can go along on July 19 or email claire.starmer@dudley.gov.uk

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School is ranked outstanding after inspectors are impressed

A SCHOOL in Coseley has been ranked 'outstanding' by inspectors impressed with teaching standards and happiness of pupils to the delight of staff.

Christ Church CofE Primary has been given top marks by Ofsted for the second time.

Head teacher Pat Hazelhurst, who has led the school for more than 16 years, said she was thrilled by the work of colleagues.

She also praised pupils for their dedication and believed the achievements were the result

of years of hard work. "We're in quite a challenging area, where it's tough, not a leafy suburb," she said. What's particularly thrilling is that it's the result of a lot of hard work and dedication – everyone comes in every day determined to do their best. This kind of achievement doesn't happen overnight.

Dynamic

"There's no magic wand and it's the result of years of hard work."

Lead Ofsted inspector Richard Boswell said his team were impressed by the school's dynamic leadership team. His report stated:

"Pupils make outstanding progress. They start school at levels that are frequently much lower than expected for their age.

"They go on to leave the school with standards that are higher, often much higher, than the national average."

The inspection team also highlighted the behaviour of pupils as 'outstanding' saying they were particularly impressed with pupils during lessons.

The report added: "Pupils learn not to give up. They learn to expect to find obstacles in their path and how to overcome them. Pupils feel safe and happy in this very caring school."



Claire Groom with her daughter, Niamh and members of 6th Kingswinford Rainbows

Rainbows step up in memory of Isla

A GENEROUS group of young girls have completed a mile-long walk to help raise cash in memory of one of their friend's sisters.

After 22-month-old Isla Groom died over the Christmas period, her family started raising money for good causes in her memory.

Last month six-year-old sister Niamh told her friends at Six Kingswinford Rainbows group, based at Blanford Mere Primary School, about a walk she and her family had done to raise cash for Acorns Hospice and Russells Hall Hospital.

This inspired the group of girls, aged between five and seven, to do some fundraising of their own. Last week the seven girls, as well as four of the group leaders and helpers set off on a mile-long course around King George VI Park.

Group leader Natasha Hickman, aged 25, said: "The other girls were all really inspired."

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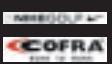
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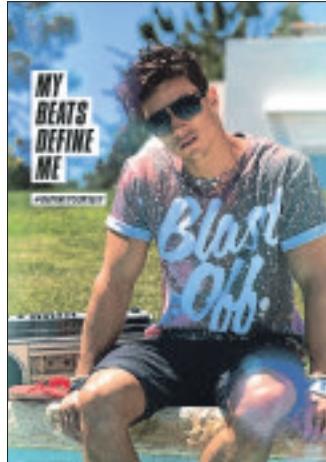
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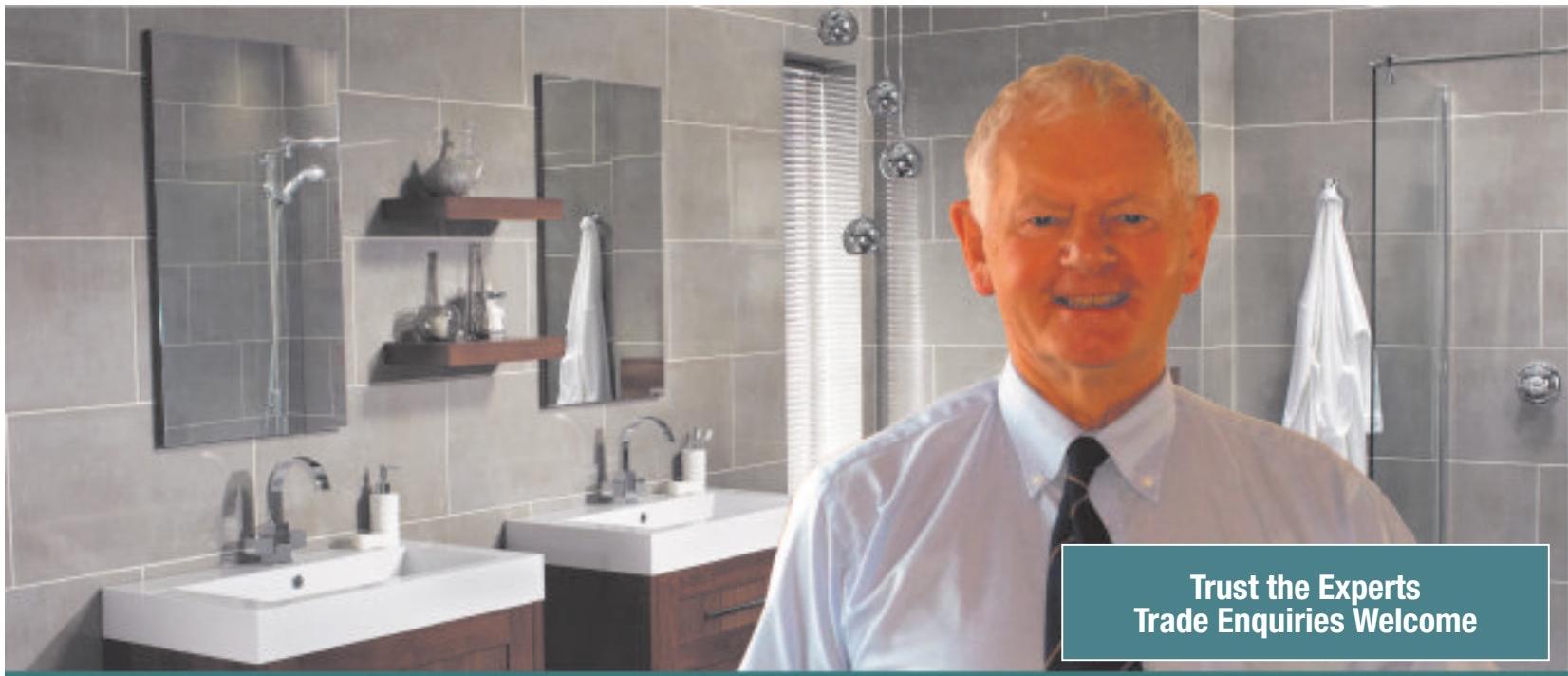
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MEMORY LANE

Mary Hewitt centre pictured with colleagues in front of a pile of Tizer crates



Mary, front right, Gwen Timmins (nee Wilkes) back right, Dora Tilley (nee Vincent) back left



Pearl Goode's mother, Mary Hewitt, who started work at Tizer in 1950



Mary Hewitt front left, and Gwen Timmins, front right, with two colleagues



Dora Tilley centre, and Pearl Goode's uncle, Jack Vincent, right, and a colleague



Workers inside the Tizer factory in Wednesbury

Fizzing fun for Tizer's one big happy family

by Mark Andrews

IT could be a cold job, working at the Tizer factory in Wednesbury, recalls Pearl Goode.

"To stop the tops from flying off, you had to dip the bottles of Tizer into a bowl of warm water while you put the cap on," she recalls.

"In the cold weather we used to hold our hands down in the bottle for a bit to keep warm."

But while it might have got a bit parky in the winter, 70-year-old Pearl recalls it as one of the happiest times of her life.

"We were like on big happy family," she says.

Indeed family was very much the operative word for Pearl, who went to work at the plant around 1960.

Her mother, her sister, her cousin – around a dozen of her relatives worked at the factory in Friar Park Road, and she says there used to be a real bond.

"It was the same throughout,

there were lots of families who all worked together," says Pearl, who operated the machines on the production lines.

"I think my mum Mary Wilkes started work there about 1950, and my cousin June Newell was also working there when I joined."

"My uncle Jack Vincent, he was a driver, then there was another cousin, Geoffrey Tilley."

Pearl recently discovered these photographs while searching through some family belongings. Thought to have been taken during the 1950s and 1960s, they show a happy, contented workforce.

"They went on a few coach trips, and they went to dances at the Stewponey Hotel, near Kinver, when they wanted a weekend away."

"There was a great mix of people, and we all got on well. There were youngsters like me, but there were also a lot of older people," says

Pearl, who lives in Freeman Road. She isn't in any of the photographs, but her mother, cousin and several other family members are.

Her son Rob Goode is hoping that other people will get in touch.

Tizer was founded in 1924 by Fred Pickup, of Manchester, and was originally known as Pickup's Appetizer.

As its popularity grew, the name was abbreviated to the snappier Tizer, and a number of plants began to spring up across the UK, including the one at Wednesbury.

In 1972 the company was taken over Scottish soft drinks giant A G Barr. Production ceased at Friar Park years ago, but there is still a sales operation on the site.

Pearl says while she loved her time at the plant, she could not imagine many of today's youngsters would want to work in such an environment.

"It was hard work, and the pay wasn't great, but we had fun."



Cheers – former worker Pearl Goode, aged 70, with her son Rob

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CLUB NEWS

Members take part in walk for Macmillan

THE June meeting was opened by Chairman Jean Latham, who welcomed 46 members and one visitor, a founder member who promptly rejoined.

Correspondence included a 'thank you' card from a group of new members, expressing their appreciation for the help and kindness shown to them by existing members.

The luncheon club meets on July 23 at the Brasserie in Kidderminster.

Earlier in the year, guilds throughout the country were invited to compete in a competition to design a

WOLLASTON 'E' TWG

poster, for the purpose of attracting new members. The art group from our 'tea and talents' section created and entered a poster, which was judged to be highly creditable fourth best.

Some 31 members took part in the annual one-mile walk in aid of Macmillan nurses, followed by an 'apres walk' meal at the White Hart in Kinver.

An amusing talk was given by artist Jeff Tristram, incorporating slides of his numerous artistic advertising works. Members enjoyed perusing Jeff's self-designed puzzles and books which he had brought for sale.

The competition was won by Janet Hodder, and raffle prizes went to Pat Archer and Sue Llewellyn.

There was a brief discussion on the mandate which

will be debated by the delegates at the National AGM.

Nearly £500 raised at Jane Austen Tea

STOURBRIDGE SOROPTIMISTS

DR Jane Flint Bridgewater, president of SI Stourbridge club, and social secretary Ann Middleton welcomed fellow Soroptimists, friends and interested ladies to a Jane Austen Tea at Himley Hall.

A preceding themed quiz, cake-weight and sale, added to the tickets for tea and costume presentation of Jane Austen's Reflections, raised nearly £500 towards the club's efforts for 'New Beginnings' (Chadds refuge) education and also began its contribution to the national Birthright in The Gambia project.

Jane Austen helped local needy women and taught village children to read. The art group from our 'tea and talents' section created and entered a poster, which was judged to be highly creditable fourth best.

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Soroptimists enjoy the Jane Austen Tea at Himley Hall

on 01384 397565, or membership and development officers Maggie Bayliss and Su Roxburgh on 01384 400466. Meetings are held on the first and third Wednesdays of the month at Hagley Golf and Country Club.

Quiz team is edged out

K'FORD TG

AT the June meeting, held at the community centre in High Street, Kingswinford's quiz team was congratulated on coming a very close second to Oldswinford in the Inter-Guild Competition.

There was a brief discussion on the mandate which

will be debated by the delegates at the National AGM.

The next meeting of the Luncheon Club will be at the Harvester.

Speaker was Trevor Johnson, a Black Country poet, reading some of his own works, delivered with humour, affection, a little sadness, poignancy and pragmatism. He was warmly thanked by Josie Smith.

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Move aims to get more recycling by households

PROPOSALS to encourage more people to recycle – including offering special deals for visits to popular tourist attractions such as Dudley Zoo – have been unveiled.

Dudley Council has launched the new ‘incentive scheme’ as part of an expansion of recycling services.

It includes savings at the Ruskin Glass Centre in Stourbridge and leisure centres across the borough. The council is recruiting other businesses to sign up to the scheme. This would

allow them to promote their goods and services on a new recycling website.

Bosses are increasing recycling services in the borough and will be collecting plastic bottles and cardboard from all homes in the borough by spring next year.

It comes after Dudley Council received a government grant of £1.8 million. The cash will also be used to enable the council to continue emptying bins every week.

The council is also funding the introduction of wheelie bins for household rubbish, which is expected to cost around £2.5m.

Councillor Tracy Wood, said: “The

roll-out of this new service and the associated incentive scheme will help us to thank our residents for everything they continue to do to help protect our environment.”

“Residents value the waste and recycling service, which scored very highly in the Big Question consultation, and these improvements acknowledge that we know how important recycling is to our residents.”

Residents will have two bags for paper, card, plastic bottles and cans following the expansion of the recycling services.

Wheelie bins are being rolled out across the borough in three phases.



Long-serving customer Margaret Graham cuts the ribbon at the Gornal Wood branch with Dudley Building Society chief executive Jeremy Wood, right, Councillor Stuart Turner and branch manager Lisa Jones

Ribbon is cut to open new branch

DUDLEY Building Society launched its new brand with the opening of a new-look branch in Gornal Wood.

Staff gave away 155 Argos gift-cards at the Abbey Road branch – one for every year the company has been running – as well as goody bags and balloons for children.

Long-serving customer Margaret Graham, who has been with the branch for more than 30 years, cut the ribbon at the opening on Monday, together with chief executive Jeremy Wood, branch manager Lisa Jones and Gornal councillor Stuart Turner.

Mr Wood said: “Dudley Building Society is committed to a modern and efficient branch network and Gornal has long been one of our best and busiest branches.”

“We are pleased to have been able to launch our new brand here at Gornal and it was heartening to hear the many positive comments from members who came to support their branch.”

The society will roll out the new brand across its seven branches.

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NEWS

Nine held during police crackdown

NINE arrests have been made in Dudley during a police crackdown on vehicle crime.

The men were arrested as part of Operation Intrusive, a borough-wide crackdown on offenders.

Those arrested were aged between 17 and 39 and were caught by police operating in Brierley Hill, Wolliescote, Halesowen and Quarry Bank.

They where charged with offences ranging from theft of motorbikes to vehicle interference.

Eight motorbikes were also recovered by officers during the operation, with two men on police bail pending further enquiries.

Sgt Craig Ryder, who is in charge of Operation Intrusive across Dudley, said: "Our number one priority at this time is to reduce vehicle crime through the identification and arrest of those suspected of committing offences."

"This is an ongoing operation and I want to reassure the public officers are

working hard to ensure Dudley remains one of the safest place to live, work and play across the West Midlands more arrests will come in time."

Officers have also applied for Criminal Anti-Social Behaviour Orders to be issued against two of those arrested.

Anyone with information on those involved in crime should call police on 101 or independent crime fighting charity Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Regular

Meanwhile a crackdown on speeding motorists has been launched by police – including a stretch of road that was the scene of a fatal crash.

Police are carrying out regular speed checks along 'hotspot' routes to raise awareness of speed limits and to catch drivers who break the law.

The crackdown was sparked by concerns from communities across the borough which marked out speeding as the top priority for their police. One

area identified is Manor Way, Halesowen – a 40mph stretch of dual carriageway from the M5 to Grange Island roundabout.

Residents claim too many motorists are speeding, causing a danger to people turning on and off the road from businesses and Halesowen Athletics Club. The safety risk of the road was highlighted last month when 32-year-old motorcyclist Nick Foster died after coming off his bike.

Sgt Martin Hall carried out one of his regular checks on the road with PCSO Dan Giles and PC Mick Jennings. They watched traffic coming from the motorway side and were positioned on a lay-by next to Grange Island roundabout. One of them used a laser gun to take speeds of vehicles, while the other two prepared to pull over any motorist breaking the speed limit.

In the 30-minute test, they stopped just one driver, but PC Jennings said he believed they were having an impact.



Pc Mick Jennings watches PCSO Dan Giles use a Pro Laser III speed detector on Manor Way, Halesowen

A&E fine looms for Russells Hall

DUDLEY'S Russells Hall may have to pay a penalty of more than £120,000 as hospitals in the region face fines of hundreds of thousands for failing to accept patients at emergency departments soon enough.

Rules introduced in April mean hospital trusts can be fined £120,000 every time they take between 30 and 60 minutes for a patient to be handed over to A&E after their arrival by ambulance.

The fines, levied by local clinical commissioning groups, reach £1,000 if the wait is more than 60 minutes, as was the case with 91 ambulances in the Black Country and Stafford in April.

Hospitals in the region, including Walsall Manor, Stafford, Sandwell, Dudley's Russells Hall, Wolverhampton's New Cross, Worcestershire Royal, Birmingham Children's and Queen Elizabeth, are responsible for £429,000 of these. In the whole of the wider West Midlands region, hospitals are facing fines of £1.35 million.

Russells Hall could be fined £128,800 for 379 handovers that took 30 to 60 minutes and 53 handovers of more than one hour.

Paula Clark, chief executive for The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust, said the hospital had not yet been fined but the trust is in talks with Dudley Clinical Commissioning Group and ambulance bosses.

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What's On! Dudley

Blue all rise to occasion with a headline set at Judgestock

Free jazz festival gig at The Public

JAZZ singer Roy Forbes will be performing with a quartet in a free gig at The Public in West Bromwich as part of Birmingham International Blues and Jazz Festival.

The gig featuring the Brian Dee Quartet takes place on Saturday from 8pm. Mr Forbes began his jazz career with the late Birmingham jazz legend Andy Hamilton. Linda Saunders, managing director of The Public said: "The festival coincides with the launch of the New Square Development, so over the course of the weekend West Bromwich will be buzzing with activity."

Rock legend has Civic concert date

LED Zeppelin rock legend Robert Plant will make a triumphant return home to Wolverhampton Civic Hall for a concert on September 2. Plant will perform with his latest band – Sensational Space Shifters – as one of just two UK dates.

The West Bromwich-born singer last played at the Civic in 2005 when he did two shows.

The legendary Led Zep frontman is currently touring in America and his only other date in the UK is at Bristol Colston Hall.

Never sing alone

THE Birmingham and Midland Operatic Society stage classic Rodgers and Hammerstein musical Carousel, most famous for the song You'll Never Walk Alone, at Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre this week.

Life is a Grand cabaret for Will

POP star Will Young is heading to Wolverhampton to take a lead role in the touring version of the recent West End hit production of Cabaret.

The raunchy, hard-hitting musical set in 1930s Germany, contrasting hedonistic lifestyles with the rise of the Nazis, will be performed at Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre from November 26 to 30.

Will Young was nominated for a prestigious Olivier award for his portrayal of the comic yet sinister character Emcee. The 34-year-old rose to fame after winning the first Pop Idol contest in 2002, and still holds the record for the fastest selling debut single in British chart history with Evergreen.

As well as scoring four number one singles, he has pursued an acting career, appearing with Dame Judi Dench in the film Mrs Henderson Presents.

The new version of Cabaret, the story of Berlin nightclub singer Sally Bowles, features such popular songs as Money Makes The World Go Round, Maybe This Time and title song Cabaret. Tickets cost between £21.50 and £39.50, available on 01902 429212 or www.grandtheatre.co.uk

Meanwhile, the 1960s heyday of crooners Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin and Sammy Davis Jr is subject of tribute show Rat Pack Vegas Spectacular at the Grand on Sunday evening.



Will Young stars in musical Cabaret coming to Wolverhampton Grand

CHART-TOPPERS Blue will be playing at the three-day festival Judgestock in the heart of the Black Country at Sandwell Valley over August Bank Holiday weekend

Organisers have promised that next month's event will be bigger and better than ever with three stages featuring acts including a headline set from recently reunited boy band Blue, who had hits with All Rise, Too Close and If You Come Back.

Also on the bill is rocker Mitchel Emms, who recently featured on BBC TV show The Voice, along with various tribute acts, local bands and young people from Conneyley Arts in Tipton.

The festival organised by Lee Judge has raised thousands for Macmillan Cancer Support over the years in memory of Simon Turton, a friend who lost his battle with cancer in 2011.

The 38-year-old who lives in West Bromwich said: "The festival is going to be huge. Previously, Judgestock has been a one-day event but this year we really wanted to put on a weekend festival to rival some of the bigger events."

Lee has raised close to £125,000 for various causes over the past 17 years. He added: "Last year we donated around £2,000 to Macmillan and we're looking to better



Festival organiser Lee Judge

that this year."

The event, August 24-26, also support the Mayor of Sandwell's charities, Birmingham Midland Eye Centre and Better Understanding of Dementia in Sandwell.

Tickets cost £12 per day for adults or £30 for all three days. Children's tickets cost £6 or £15 three days (all plus booking fees), with under-5s free when accompanied by paying adult. For information see www.judgestockmu-sicfestival.co.uk.

REVIEW

Fans lap up Felice despite unnerving stares at audience

Simon Felice and Dan Whitehouse, Glee Club, Birmingham.

AMERICAN singer-songwriter Simone Felice is certainly an unusual musician not least for the fact that he was once pronounced clinically dead.

However, having recovered from what was a brain aneurysm as a teenager, he has gone on to become a passionate musician, poet and author.

Felice from The Catskills, complete with hat and rather unnerving way of staring at his audience, opened with Dawn Brady's Son, from his self-titled album, followed by New York Times.

Fans also lapped up Hey Bobby Ray; Song for Pearl an upbeat country song dedicated to and about his daughter and then, for his partner You and I.

There was more than a touch of the Meat Loaf power ballad about Scarecrow which brought in the heavy metal sound too.

Towards the end he brought the support act, Dan Whitehouse back on stage to join in with Neil Young's Helpless.

The Wolverhampton singer-songwriter is maturing into a really fine performer and is certainly one to watch. His next album, Reaching for a State of Mind, will be officially launched on September 29 at the Crescent Theatre, Birmingham.

Danny Farragher



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What's On!

SATURDAY'S TV 13.07.13

CHOICE



Russell Watson

The Queen's Coronation Festival Gala BBC1, 7pm

Last summer, we helped Her Maj mark the 60th anniversary of her ascending to the throne, and now, 12 months on, we're doing it all again, this time as she celebrates 60 years since her coronation. A three-day Coronation Festival at Buckingham Palace climaxes with a spectacular evening gala. The Fanfare Trumpeters from the Household Division open the show, which also features performances from Kiri Te Kanawa, Katherine Jenkins, Russell Watson, Katie Melua, The Feeling and the English National Ballet.

BBC1

- 6.00 Breakfast** 10.00 Saturday Kitchen Live. 11.30 Lorraine's Fast, Fresh and Easy Food. (R) **12.00 BBC News: Regional News**: Weather. **12.15 Bargain Hunt**. (R)
- 1.00 Live MotoGP** 2.00 Athletics: British Championships. **4.10 Escape to the Country**. (R) **5.10 Room 101** - Extra Storage. (R) **5.50 Pointless Celebrities**. (R) **6.40 BBC News: Regional News**; Weather.
- 7.00 The Queen's Coronation Festival Gala**, Sophie Raworth and Gareth Malone present highlights of the concert from Buckingham Palace, featuring Kiri Te Kanawa, Katherine Jenkins, Russell Watson and Katie Melua.
- 8.20 The National Lottery** - **In It to Win It**. Dale Winton hosts as five contestants compete to be in the right place at the right time to win a share of the £100k. Includes the National Lottery draws, presented by OJ Borg.
- 9.10 Casualty**. Tom is on a personal mission to find his son when a disturbance breaks out and the trouble spreads. Zoë deals with a young girl who will go to great lengths to connect with her mother.
- 10.00 Mrs Brown's Boys**. Agnes worries her family is too secretive. (R)
- 10.30 BBC News: Weather**.
- 10.50 Film: Enemy of the State**. (1998) An encounter with an old friend derails a lawyer's life as he ends up framed for murder and pursued by government agents. Thriller, starring Will Smith.
- 12.50 Weatherview**. 12.55 BBC News.

BBC2

- 6.00 This Is BBC Two** 6.05 Film: **The Heart Never Hurts**. (1932) 7.20 **Film: Best of the Badminton**. (1981)
- 8.40 The Sky at Night**. (R) **9.00 A History of Scotland**. (R) **10.30 Triathlon**. 12.00 The A to Z of TV Cooking. **12.45 Golf**: The Story of the Open Championship 2012. **1.40 EastEnders**. (R) **3.30 The Big Challenge**: Cuppa TV League.
- 6.10 Flog It!** Anita Manning and Adam Partridge value items at Sunderland's Stadium of Light, and Paul Martin visits Beamish, the Living Museum of the North in Co Durham. (R)
- 7.10 Dad's Army**. The platoon re-enacts the battle between St George and the dragon. (R)
- 7.40 The Amazing Impossible - Natural World Special**. Documentary following a team of scientists using underwater robots and state-of-the-art submersibles to try to find and film a living giant squid for the first time.
- 8.25 QI XL**. With Sandi Toksvig, Bill Bailey and Susan Calman. (R)
- 9.10 Top of the Lake**. New series. A 12-year-old is found to be pregnant and children protection specialist Robin Griffin is called in to assist local police.
- 10.10 Alive**: **Rankin Faces Death - A Culture Show Special**.
- 11.10 Film: Rabbit Hole**. (2010) A couple try to keep their children from falling apart as they take different approaches to coping with their son's death. Drama, with Nicole Kidman and Aaron Eckhart.
- 12.35 Golf**: Scottish Open Highlights. **1.35 This Is BBC Two**.

ITV

- 6.00 CITV**: Jake and the Neverland Pirates. **6.10 Jake and the Neverland Pirates**. 6.20 Poppy Cat. **6.40 Canimals**. **7.10 Bookaboo**. **7.20 Kick Buttowski - Suburban Daredevil**. **7.35 The Avengers: Earth's Mightiest Heroes**. **8.00 Gran Falls**. **8.25 ITV News**: Weather. **8.30 Dining Out**. **9.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show** USA. (R) **10.15 Murder, She Wrote**. (R) **11.15 Saturday Farm**. **12.15 ITV News: Weather**. **12.25 All Star Mr & Mrs**. (R) **1.25 The Chase**. **2.25 Film: Bill & Ted's Excellent Adventure**. (1989) **4.00 Midsomer Murders**. (R) **6.00 Regional Programme**; Weather.
- 6.15 ITV News**: Weather.
- 6.30 You've Been Framed!** Game show, featuring an exploding brahag. (R)
- 7.00 You've Been Framed!** Humorous footage, including a Reliant Robin that flips 360 degrees. (R)
- 7.30 Your Face Sounds Familiar**. Guest judge Peter Andre joins Emma Bunton and Jodi Albert as they travel as the celebrities impersonate more randomly selected music icons. Alesha Dixon and Paddy McGuinness host.
- 8.45 All Star Family Fortunes**. Hollyoaks star Danny Mac (Mark "Dogger" Savage) and Claire Richards from Steps, take on the quiz in an attempt to win money for charity. Vernon Kay hosts the game show.
- 9.45 The Americans**.
- 10.30 ITV News**: Weather.
- 10.50 Film: Hot Fuzz**. (2007) Action comedy, starring Simon Pegg.
- 12.55 Jackpot! 247**. 3.00 In Plain Sight. (R) **3.40 ITV Nightscreen**.

CHANNEL 4

- 6.00 The Treadie People**. (R) **6.10 The Hobbit**. (R) **6.20 The Hobbits**. (R) **7.05 Caterham UK Racing**. **7.30 The Grid**. **8.00 The Morning Line**. **9.00 Everybody Loves Raymond**. (R) **9.30 Everybody Loves Raymond**. (R) **10.00 Frasier**. (R) **10.30 Frasier**. (R) **11.00 The Big Bang Theory**. **11.30 The Big Bang Theory**. (R) **12.00 The Simpsons**. (R) **12.30 Undercover Boss**. Canada. (R) **1.30 Channel 4 Racing**. **4.15 Come Dine with Me**. (R) **4.45 Come Dine with Me**. (R) **5.50 Come Dine with Me**. (R) **6.20 Come Dine with Me**. (R)
- 6.30 Hairdresser Kim Connor** hosts the final party in Huddersfield, hoping her American diner-themed menu will delight her guests. (R)
- 6.50 Channel 4 News**.
- 7.20 Grand Designs**. The conversion of a lifeboat station into a contemporary home. (R)
- 8.20 The Million Pound Drop**. (R) Davina McCall presents the quiz show in which contestants are challenged to place large quantities of cash over trapdoors as they face a series of questions.
- 10.00 Film: Repo Men**. (2010) A man employed to remove damaged organs questions his career when he needs a mechanical heart he cannot pay for. Sci-fi thriller, with Jude Law and Forest Whitaker.
- 12.15 Film: The Cave**. (2005) Horror, starring Michael Caine and Ed Harris. 2.00 **Horror Terry**. (R) **2.25 Mesh: The Wrong Turn**. (R) **2.35 Southland**. (R) **3.25 Hollyoaks**. (R) **5.35 Baking Mad** with Eric Lanlard. (R)

CHANNEL 5

- 6.00 Milkshake!** **10.00 Power Rangers: Samurai**. (R) **10.25 ThunderCats**. (R) **11.00 Inside Hollywood**. **11.05 Big Brother: Live Eviction**. (R) **1.30 Cowboy Traders**. (R) **1.30 CSY: NY**. (R) **2.25 CSI: NY**. (R) **3.15 Film: Jesse Stone**: Death in Paradise. (R) **5.00 Fat, Sick and Nearly Dead**.
- 7.00 Cricket**: **The Ashes**. England v Australia. Mark Nicholas presents action from day four of the First Test at Trent Bridge, where the second innings was likely to be taking shape ahead of the final day.
- 8.00 NCIS**. The team tries to locate a kidnapped girl but has to contend with her grandfather, a former member of a disbanded special forces unit who interferes in the case. (R)
- 9.00 NCIS**. The team investigates what at first appears to be a straightforward robbery, until Tony discovers a homeowner lied to police after shooting the intruder. (R)
- 9.50 5 News Weekend**.
- 10.00 Big Brother**. Highlights of another 24 hours in the Big Brother house, including coverage of the latest evictions as seen from the point of view of the contestants.
- 11.00 Big Brother's Bit on the Psych**. AJ Odudu is joined by a panel of psychologists and celebrity fans to analyse the housemates' behaviour.
- 12.00 SuperCasino**. **4.00 Nick's Quest**. (R) **4.25 Make It Big**. (R) **4.50 Rock of Gibraltar**. (R) **5.00 Angels of Jarm**. (R) **5.10 Hana's Helpline**. (R) **5.20 Angels of Jarm**. (R) **5.25 The Funky Valley Show**. (R) **5.40 Roary the Racing Car**. (R) **5.50 Hana's Helpline**. (R)

DIGITAL

- BBC Three**
 - 7.00 UEFA Women's Euro 2013**. Finland v Sweden (Kick-off 8.30pm). The Script and Dizzee Rascal @ **1.00 20.00** Rihanna and Calvin Harris @ TBC
 - BBC Four**
 - 7.00 Heritage**: The Battle for Britain's Past. **8.00 Nelson's Caribbean Hell-Hole**: An Eighteenth Century Navy Graveyard Uncovered
 - 9.00 Wallander**: The Man Who Smiled. **11.00 Bobby Bland**: Two Steps from the Blues
 - ITV2**
 - 4.55 Film: Star Wars: Episode IV – A New Hope**. (1977) **7.30 Film: The Mummy**. (1999) **10.00 Film: I Now Pronounce You Chuck & Larry**. (2007)
 - ITV3**
 - 2.45 Film: The Four Musketeers**. (1974) **4.55 Agatha Christie's Marple**. (1990) **7.00 Agatha Christie's Marple**. (1990) Lewis **11.00 Cold Blood II**
 - E4**
 - 2.00 Tour de France 2013 Live**. Coverage of stage 14 of the world's most famous cycle race. **4.30 Formula 1 Grand Prix**: British Superbike Championship Highlights
 - 6.00 The Motorbike Show** **7.00 Tour de France 2013 Highlights**
 - 8.00 Black Gold** **9.00 Hell on Wheels**. **10.00 Film: Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels** (1998)
 - 5.25 The Mindy Project** **6.00 The Big Bang Theory** **7.00 How I Met Your Mother**. **8.00 Happy Endings**
 - 8.30 Rock of Gibraltar**. **9.00 Film: Beverly Hills Cop III**. (1994) **11.05 The Inbetweeners**
 - Film4**
 - 3.05 Congo** (1995) **5.10 The Iron Giant** (1999) **6.50 The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader** (2010) **9.00 Source Code** (2011) **10.50 Aliens** (1986)

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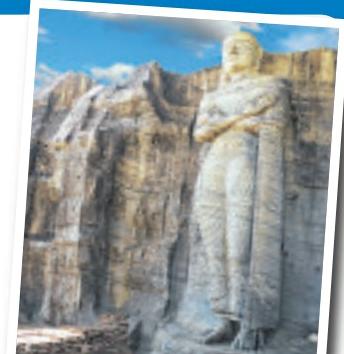
Sri Lanka

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For a different sort of experience, two nights are reserved at the Safari Hotel, which has a pool, bar and restaurant overlooking the Tissa Lake. Just 45 minutes from the Yala National Park this is the base for an early morning start to the jeep safari in the hope of seeing leopard, elephants, saltwater crocodiles, wild boar, sloth bears, monitor lizards and a huge variety of birdlife. The three-star superior Palms Hotel in the beach resort of Beruwela is the final port of call, allowing for two days of rest and relaxation before the journey home.



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What's On!

Listings supplied by Press Association

SUNDAY'S TV 14.07.13**CHOICE****Swann Nambotin****The Returned
Channel 4, 9pm**

What is going on in the small French town? We've seen five episodes so far, and we're none the wiser. Instead, we're intrigued, gripped and, if truth be known, a little bit frustrated; it's time we learned a little bit more about what's going on, if only for our peace of mind. Pierre should certainly not be trusted – after all, he was present when little Victor and his family were slaughtered by burglars. Nevertheless, he remains a trusted member of the community, especially after he calls a meeting of the families affected by the school-bus accident.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** Sunday Morning Live. **11.00** Sunday Politics. Weather for the West Ahead. **12.20** Countryfile. (R) **1.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **2.00** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **3.00** Helicopter Heroes. (R) **3.30** Rhys Jones's Wildlife Patrol. **4.00** Escape to the Country. (R) **5.00** Songs of Praise. **5.35** Earthlight. (R) **6.35** BBC News: Regional News; Weather.

7.00 Antiques Roadshow. The team values more decorative objects and rarities at Chatsworth House in Derbyshire, including a painting thought to be by Constable and a set of designs for exotic jewellery.

8.00 The White Queen. Warwick Longleat's Richard III tries to help its struggling economy and create a street circuit. Benedict Cumberbatch drives the Reasonably Priced Car.

9.00 Hunt vs Lauda: F1's Greatest Racing Rivals. The battle for the 1976 world drivers' championship.

10.00 Blackadder the Third. The new prime minister plots to bankrupt the Prince Regent. (R)

10.35 Mock the Week. With Josh Widdicombe, Ed Byrne and Hal Cruttenden. (R)

11.25 Live at the Apollo. With Kevin Bridges, Shappi Khorsandi and Jack Whitehall. (R)

11.55 Film: Two for the Money. (2005) Gambling drama, with Al Pacino.

1.50 Weatherview. **1.55 BBC News.**

BBC2

6.00 This Is BBC Two. **7.00 Film:** Every Day's a Holiday. (1965) **8.30** Matisse: The French Gardens. (R) **9.30** The Best of the BBC: Comedy. **10.00 Saturday Kitchen Best Bites.** **11.30 Raymond Blanc:** How to Cook Well. (R) **12.00** What to Eat Now. (R) **12.30** Live MotoGP. **2.00** Athletics: British Championships. **4.00** Live Challenge Cup Rugby League.

6.30 A Race Against Time: Hilary Lister's Round Britain Dream.

7.30 Wild Cameramen at Work. New series. Five wildlife cameramen reflect on their favourite natural history moments.

8.00 Top Gear. Jeremy Clarkson, Richard Hammond and James May head to Spain to help its struggling economy and create a street circuit. Benedict Cumberbatch drives the Reasonably Priced Car.

9.00 Hunt vs Lauda: F1's Greatest Racing Rivals. The battle for the 1976 world drivers' championship.

10.00 Blackadder the Third. The new prime minister plots to bankrupt the Prince Regent. (R)

10.35 Mock the Week. With Josh Widdicombe, Ed Byrne and Hal Cruttenden. (R)

11.05 What a Load of Buzzcocks. Music news stories and highlights of the comedy quiz from 2006. (R)

11.35 Live at the Apollo Open Highlights: Action from the fourth round of this year's tournament.

12.35 Film: Everything. (2004) **2.05 Sign Zone:** Countryfile. (R) **3.00 Holby City.** (R) **4.00** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Jake and the Neverland Pirates. **7.15** Jake and the Neverland Pirates. **6.25** Poppy Cat. **6.40** Cannibals. (R) **7.10** Bookaboo. **7.20** Kick Buttowski – Suburban Daredevil. **7.35** The Avengers: Earth's Mightiest Heroes! **8.00** Sonny with a Chance. **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** The Hollyoaks. (R) **9.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. **9.30** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **11.20** ITV News: Weather. **11.25** Film: Columbo: An Exercise in Fatality. (1974) **1.25** Love Your Garden. (R) **2.25** Film: Always. (1989) **4.35** A Touch of Frost. (R) **6.30** Regional Programme; Weather.

6.45 ITV News: Weather.

7.00 Tipping Point: Lucky Stars. The game show where host Shrager and Louie Spence take part in the quiz show in which contestants answer questions to win turns on an arcade-style machine. Ben Shephard presents.

8.00 All Star Mr & Mrs. With Una Healy of the Saturdays and Emma Willis. (R) **9.00** Ben Foden, TV presenter Yvette Fielding and her husband Karl Beattie, and comedian Eddie Large with his wife Patsey.

9.00 Law & Order: UK. New series. Part one of two. A suicidal man causes a train crash and 15 deaths.

10.00 ITV News: Weather.

10.15 The Talent Show Story: How the X Factor became one of TV's biggest shows. (R)

11.15 Murder, She Wrote. (R)

12.10 The Store: 2.15 Motorsport UK. **3.00 British Superbike Championship Highlights.** **3.50 Monk.** (R) **4.35** ITV Nightscreen. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.00 The Treacle Monsters. (R) **6.10** The Hobbs. (R) **8.00** AKA: The Series. **7.00** Summer 2013. **7.55** Pet Race Dirty Weekend. **8.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sundar Brunch. **12.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **1.00** The Simpsons. (R) **1.30** The Simpsons. (R) **2.00** Film: Fame. (2009) **4.05** Deal or Deal. **5.05** Film: Marley and Me. (2008) Comedy drama, starring Owen Wilson and Jennifer Aniston.

7.20 Channel 4 News.

7.50 Ramadan Diaries. Short films following British Muslims as they observe Ramadan.

7.55 Boudica's Lost Tribe: A Time

Travel. (2013) **8.00** Robinson traces the story of the female warrior, following an excavation in Norfolk that may hold clues to what happened to her tribe, the Iceni, after their defeat. (R)

9.00 The Returned. The town is affected by a power cut, with people forming a community around Camille and Julie finding refuge at Laure's house with Victor, whose body is undergoing a transformation.

10.10 Film: Attack the Block. (2011) A student house and a teenage gang band together to fight off alien invaders terrorising a south London tower block. Sci-fi comedy thriller, with Jodie Whittaker.

11.55 Film: Rez 2. (2009) Horror sequel, with Jonathan Mellor, Oscar Sanchez Zafra and Manuela Velasco.

1.25 Film: KM 31. (2000) Horror, starring Ilana Fox. **3.10** Location, Location, Location. (R) **4.05** Countdown. (R) **4.50** Deal or No Deal. (R) **5.45** Baking Mad with Eric Lanlard. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! Peppa Pig. **6.05** Roobarb and Custard. **6.10** The Clangers. (R) **6.25** Bubble and Squeak. **6.35** The McMenamins. (R) **6.50** Chloe's Closet. **7.00** Milkshake! Monkey. (R) **7.05** Roobarb and Custard Too. (R) **7.10** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **7.25** Bloody Mary and the Toyjamians. (R) **7.45** The City of Gold. **8.00** Charlie and Lola's Great Adventures. (R) **7.55** Little Princess. (R) **8.10** The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky. (R) **8.20** Mio Mio. (R) **8.25** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **8.45** Rupert Bear. (R) **9.00** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.15** Tots Travelling Circus. (R) **9.45** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **10.00** Jelly Jamm. **10.15** The Mr Men Show. (R) **10.15** Power Rangers Samurai. (R) **10.50** Inside Hollywood. (R) **10.55** Big Brother. (R) **11.50** The Queen's Diamond Jubilee. **12.55** Film: Chitty Chitty Bang Bang. (1968) **3.45** Film: An American Tail. (1986) **5.15** Film: Charlie's Angels. (2000) Action adventure, starring Drew Barrymore.

7.00 Cricket: The Ashes. England v Australia.

8.00 Once Upon a Time. Emma, Action! **5.00** World's Wildest Police Videos. **6.00** BRDC Formula 1 Grand Prix. **7.00** Tour de France 2013 Highlights. **8.00** Minder. **9.00** Film: Universal Soldier: Regeneration (2009). **11.00** Film: The Killer Inside Me (2010).

DIGITAL

BBC Three **7.00** UEFA Women's Euro 2013 **9.30** The Killers @ T. Tonight's Headlining Performance: The Las Vegas-based rockers. **11.00** David Guetta and Labrinth @ T. **BBC Four** **7.00** Frost on Interviews **8.00** The Review Show **9.00** London: A Day of Two Cities with Dan Cruickshank **10.00** Grand Prix: The Killer Years **11.00** When Albums Rule the World **ITV2** **2.10** Film: Happy Feet (2006) **4.10** Film: Star Wars - Episode V - The Empire Strikes Back (1980) **6.45** Film: The Mummy: Tomb of the Dragon Emperor (2008) **9.00** Film: Knocked Up (2007) **11.35** totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **ITV3** **4.05** Film: Carry On Up the Jungle (1970) **5.55** Wycliffe **7.00** Agatha Christie's Poirot **9.00** Film: The Portrait of a Lady (1996) **11.55** Blue Murder **ITV4** **1.30** Tour de France 2013 Live. Stage 15 from Givors to Mont Ventoux. **4.30** Police, Camera, Action! **5.00** World's Wildest Police Videos. **6.00** BRDC Formula 1 Grand Prix. **7.00** Tour de France 2013 Highlights. **8.00** Minder. **9.00** Film: Universal Soldier: Regeneration (2009). **11.00** Film: The Killer Inside Me (2010). **4** **4.30** 90210 **5.25** The Mindy Project **6.00** The Big Bang Theory **7.30** New Girl **8.00** Film: Just My Luck (2006) **10.00** Film: The Inbetweeners **11.05** Skins: Fire - Part Two **Film4** **2.55** Horton Hears a Who! (2008) **4.35** Oliver Twist (2005) **7.00** Post Grad (2009) **9.00** Season of the Witch (2011) **10.50** Harsh Times (2005)

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What's On!

Film Choices

MONDAY

Wild Hearts, Channel 5, 3.20pm

A widowed Los Angeles police detective inherits a mustang ranch in Montana. He takes over the running of the place, as well as becoming the local sheriff. Meanwhile, as he and his rebellious daughter struggle with the change in lifestyle, he also has to come to terms with his own troubled past. Drama, starring Richard Thomas and Nancy McKeon. (2006)

TUESDAY

Mystery Woman: Game Time, Channel 5, 3.15pm

Amateur sleuth Samantha Kinsey manages to persuade a reclusive author to attend a book-signing event - but ends up having to solve his murder. A shady video-games designer seen near the body seems the likely culprit, but she is convinced he is innocent. Drama, starring Kellie Martin. (2005)

Dirty Pretty Things, BBC1, 11.35pm

A Nigerian illegal immigrant living in London takes a job at a hotel frequented by drug dealers. When he discovers evidence of a murder, he dares not go to the police about it, and instead embarks on a danger-filled investigation of his own. Stephen Frears' drama, starring Audrey Tautou and Chiwetel Ejiofor. (2002)



Gladiator, Friday, ITV, 10.35pm

WEDNESDAY

Planet of the Apes, Channel 4, 1.05pm

A spaceship crash-lands on a mysterious planet where humans are mute creatures who find themselves at the mercy of intelligent apes. The world's simian rulers are horrified when one of the crew reveals he can speak and plan to have him killed, but two chimpanzee scientists intervene, determined to learn from the new arrival. Sci-fi drama, starring Charlton Heston. (1968)

THURSDAY

Arizona Raiders, Channel 4, 1.25pm

In the aftermath of the American Civil War, two Confederate soldiers are offered a way out of jail. Their former comrades-in-arms are now a gang of bandits terrorising Arizona, and the two prisoners are sent to infiltrate the group and bring them to justice. Western, starring Audie Murphy and Gloria Talbott. (1965)

FRIDAY

Gladiator, ITV, 10.35pm

Roman general Maximus Decimus Meridius is a casualty of a power struggle between the corrupt Emperor Commodus and the senate. Ordered to be put to death along with his family, he escapes his would-be killers and is sold into slavery, only to become a gladiator and seek revenge for the murder of his wife and child. Oscar-winning period epic, with Russell Crowe and Joaquin Phoenix. (2000)

Pick of the Week

Robin feels the baby blues on her home turf

Dark skies, brooding atmosphere, mystery and people in peril... We could be talking about Scandinavian noir, that breed of programmes that has taken British TV by storm over the past four years, or even Channel 4's moody French import, *The Returned*.

But no, we're describing *Top of the Lake*, which has been co-written and co-directed by acclaimed Kiwi film-maker Jane Campion, whose previous work includes *The Piano* (for which she won a Best Screenplay Oscar, as well as the Palme d'Or), *The Portrait of a Lady* and *Bright Star*.

However, there is an international feel about this, as the story is set in the present day in the east of America's Elizabeth Moss and Holly Hunter (who's reunited with Campion) for the first time since winning a Best Actress Academy Award for her performance in *The Piano*. Australians David Wenham and Thomas M Wright and Scotsman Peter Mullan.

Fans of *Mad Men* may receive a jolt when they see Moss dressed down in the lead role after becoming used to watching her as the immaculately attired secretary-turned-copywriter Peggy Olson. The actress could hardly believe her luck when the script of *Top of the Lake* landed in her lap.

"I've always been a huge fan of Jane Campion, she does such incredible work, so many different kinds of things, but they always have her own sensibility about them," says Moss. "She is like the epitome of the actor's director so getting the opportunity to learn from her and be challenged by her has been such an incredible part of this experience."

Moss plays Detective Robin Griffin, a child protection officer, who's recently returned to her home town to tend to her ailing mother.

When pregnant 12-year-old local girl Tui Mitcham is rescued from a frozen lake, it's Robin's who's called in to take care of her case. Her investigation uncovers disturbing facts about the locals - not to mention aspects of her own life she'd rather forget.

"Robin is one of those incredible female roles that are really rare where you have a character who is strong and feminine, who has a lot to do and who has an incredible emotional journey," explains Moss.

Jane understands the complexities of people, and she obviously has a gift for female characters that have those complexities, showing that they're not always right, they're not always wrong, they're not always beautiful - they're often ugly, they're not always strong but they're incredibly powerful. So for me it's sort of a dream role and it's very different from anything I've ever done."

So, why should we tune in?

"The story becomes Robin's search for herself and she's been moving into her own past that she's been running away from," claims Moss. "It's a detective story, it's a mystery, it has all these elements about it that are sort of tried and true."

"But what makes it different is it's got the Jane Campion touch. So everything is just a lot darker, a lot stranger, a lot more complicated than that."

You've sold it to us Elisabeth - bring on those dark skies!



Elisabeth Moss (centre) stars in Top of the Lake, Saturday, BBC2, 9.10pm

Best of the Rest

MONDAY
The Gadget Show
Channel 5, 8pm

Boys may love their toys, but who said gadgets have to be just for blokes? Rachel Riley seems to have a fine time working on this series, as she proves in assorted reports featuring Jason Bradbury. They investigate problems surrounding connecting to wi-fi; they also look at the latest routers, and build life-size remote-piloted superheroes modelled on themselves. Meanwhile, ex-Olympic triple jump champion Jonathan Edwards tests cycling computers, and globe-trotting reporter Pollyanna Woodward is off to Hungary where she tries out a one-third scale radio-controlled car. Plus, TGS veteran Jon Bentley will be trying out a range of tablet computers.

TUESDAY
Luther
BBC1, 9pm

The penultimate offering centres on the murder of two young hoodlums shot at close range in what looks like a gangland crime, and another man who dies shortly after. The deceased all had criminal records, so it looks like a new killer with a personal vendetta against all past offenders is on the loose, and only one man can stop him. The trouble is, Luther (Idris Elba) struggles to control the increased public attention when the killer posts a video of himself online, calling for changes to the public justice system. The psychopath is on a mission and he's bound to strike again, but so many possible victims, who will he target next?

WEDNESDAY
The Apprentice: The Final
BBC1, 8pm

It's nine years since this show's first run, and over the years we've seen Tim Campbell, Michelle Dewberry, Simon Ambrose, Lee McQueen, Yasmina Siadatan, Stella English, Tom Pellereau and Ricky Martin (not that one) hear those magic words "You're hired". Leah Totton, Jordan Poulton, Myles Mordant and Luisa Zissman, among others, have been great entertainment value this year. Who will manage to impress Lord Sugar and his team of advisers one final time this series? We haven't got a clue,

but there is one way to find out. As ever, Nick Hewer and Karen Brady will be presiding over the drama as the final challenge is executed.

Maxine Peake: Performance, Protest and Peterloo
BBC2, 10pm

At 38 years old, Maxine Peake has a sparkling CV that many actors twice her age would be envious of. So it's little wonder that with Manchester's International Festival now in its final week, the Beeb has decided to focus its attention on the gifted actress, who took on a huge role within it.

The festival has showcased a collection of world-class talent, theatrical premieres and ground-breaking musical performances - and among them was Ms Peake performing in Shelley's *The Masque of Anarchy*. Miranda Sawyer meets up with Maxine to discuss the poem.

THURSDAY
Live Golf: The Open Championship
BBC2, 9am

The world's finest golfers congregate at Muirfield in Gullane, East Lothian, for the opening day of what is one of the most prestigious events on the

sport's calendar. Last year's tournament threw up its fair share of drama as Australian Adam Scott saw his form collapse at the end of the final round, allowing South African veteran Ernie Els to creep up the leaderboard and deny him his first Major title by a single stroke. Scott has since got that monkey off his back by tasting glory at this year's Masters, but Els will be feeling confident of retaining his trophy having won The Open on this course back in 2002.

The Briefs
ITV, 9pm

This intriguing series returns with another two-part to give us an insight into British justice from the perspective of the defence. First up at Tuckers Solicitors in Manchester, we meet serial offender Kyle, accused of taking part in a violent street brawl, and of a house burglary - but he's no stranger to the legal advisors at the firm, in fact, they're representing him for the 34th time. Meanwhile, Alex faces a charge of causing criminal damage by scratching a car, a break from the norm for him as he usually robs businesses.

FRIDAY
Coronation Street
ITV, 7.30pm

Rob and Tracy going into business together could be a recipe for disaster. After all, they're both ex cons, which is fine if they've learned their lessons, but given the recent silk theft from Underworld it seems they haven't. Little wonder Carla and Michelle are amazed by the news, and Peter should also worry because when Rob places £500 on an accumulator, he stands to lose around £35,000.

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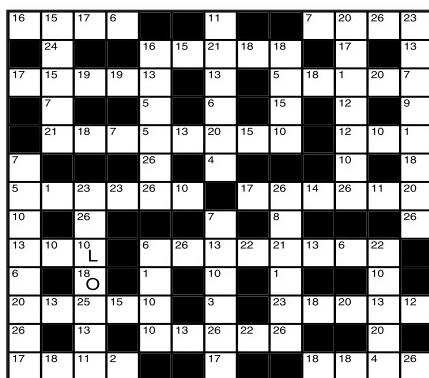
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Brain Gym

No.229

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	V	L	E	Y	C	F	D	R	M	I	Q	O	13
14	T	J	A	P	N	W	S	G	B	X	Z	U	H

Double Crossword

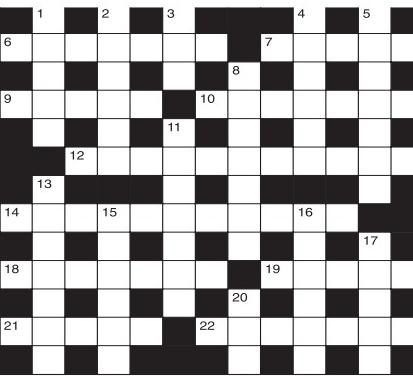
Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

Cryptic Clues:**Across**

- Direct way for joining the buzzer to a telephone connection (3-4)
- & 22 Ac. Wool-gatherer (5-7)
- Luggage carried by elephant (5)
- Boarding-house that provides for one who has retired (7)
- Supplying more men to check coercion (11)
- The writer is about to restrict the powers that be (11)
- Not in agreement with anti-gas disturbance (7)
- Describing the sort of discipline that comes from a master nowadays? (5)
- Broadcaster (5)
- See 7 Across

Down

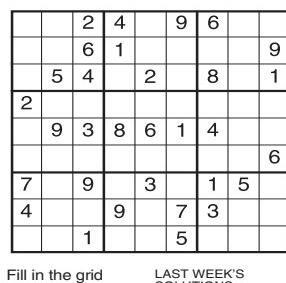
- See 3 Down
- A member of the fair sex (6)
- & 1Dn. The insect tolerates the aardvarks (3-5)
- Singular version of natural science that provides a remedy (6)
- Tell what happens at a close election (7)
- Arranges expatriation of French near the dock areas (7)
- Dismantle? (7)
- The lad is about to encourage the operator (7)
- Welcomed and provided with a cold shower? (6)
- Additional changes for special editions (6)
- Had an irritating effect - brought before the court (5)
- Concur (5)
- Pitch reserved (3)

**Quick Clues:****Across**

- Propriety (7)
- Rush out suddenly (5)
- Call for (5)
- Refined (7)
- Mix together (11)
- Intelligence (11)
- Flagrant (7)
- Perfect (5)
- Concur (5)
- Qualified (7)

Down

- Answer (5)
- Idea (6)
- Purchase (3)
- Slang (6)
- Expressionlessly (7)
- A region's weather (7)
- Abundant (7)
- Likeness in certain respects (7)
- Vent (6)
- Severe trial (6)
- Match (5)
- Pale (3)

Sudoku

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

6	4	8	5	9	3	1	7	2
5	1	7	4	8	2	9	6	3
9	3	2	7	6	1	4	8	5
7	6	9	1	5	8	2	3	4
8	2	4	6	3	9	5	7	1
3	5	7	8	1	6	9	0	2
4	6	3	1	6	2	4	1	5
2	9	6	8	7	5	3	4	1
1	8	3	9	2	4	7	5	6

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:
CRYPTIC: Across: 1 Redundant; 7 Ionic; 8 Lighten; 10 Sweeping; 11 Fort; 13 Casket; 15 Ticker; 17 Iran; 18 Optional; 21 Notable; 22 Irons; 23 Pestilence; Down: 1 Range; 2 Decipher; 3 Colony; 4 Iago; 5 Network; 6 Dissection; 9 Naturalist; 12 Division; 14 Seatle; 16 Appeal; 19 Noose; 20 Abet. QUICK - Across: 1 Preference; 7 Eject; 8 Plainer; 10 Exterior; 11 Less; 13 Tuisse; 15 Portal; 17 Beer; 18 Prospect; 21 Express; 22 Bravo; 23 Despondent. Down: 1 Pleat; 2 Entice; 3 Employ; 4 Plan; 5 Consent; 6 Detestable; 9 Replete; 12 Possible; 14 Steeple; 16 Prison; 19 Exact; 20 Deep.

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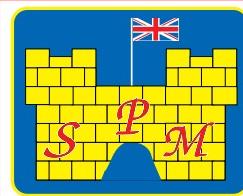
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Andrew Grant is handling the sale of this three-bedroom semi in Bewdley

THIS well-presented three-bed semi-detached is for sale at a guide price of £189,950.

The property in Maypole Close has a ground floor extension and is near to the Severn Valley Railway Station in a cul-de-sac location in the idyllic town of Bewdley.

Outside the front of property there is a driveway, off-road parking and a garage.

The house also benefits from central heating, double glazing, and rear garden.

Downstairs from the entrance hall, glass panelled doors open onto the living area which has a gas fire, marble hearth and surround.

Double French doors lead out to the garden.

The good-sized kitchen has matching wall and base units, stainless steel sink drainer with mixer tap, electric oven and gas hob with extractor over, integrated fridge, and space and plumbing for a washing machine and space for a tumble dryer.

On the first floor are three good-sized bedrooms. Two bedrooms at the back of the property overlook the garden, and one is above the garage at the front.

The bathroom has a panel bath in tiled surrounds plus mixer shower, a separate mixer shower cubicle, WC, hand basin and cupboard beneath, heated towel rail, and shelving.

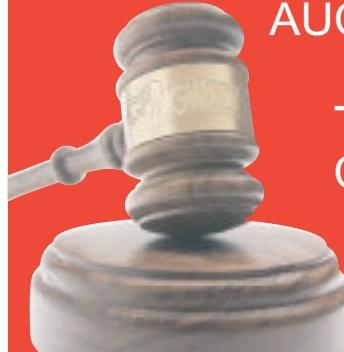
Outside the back garden has a patio and steps leading to the lawn and integrated decking/seating area, partial flower bedding and a wooden storage shed. There is no upward chain involved in the sale. Call Andrew Grant on 01562 60228.

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RODEN BOYDELL



SELDGEY

A four-bedroom detached home of considerable size that briefly comprises a reception hall, a spacious lounge, a formal dining room, a stunning conservatory, a superb fitted breakfast kitchen, a utility room, a games room, a downstairs w/c, a master bedroom with en-suite bathroom, two bedrooms with en-suite shower rooms, a spacious fourth bedroom, a family bathroom, UPVC double glazing, gas fired central heating, a garage and a large rear garden. EPC rating tba

£434,950

SELDGEY

A four-bedroom detached home of considerable size that briefly comprises a porch, an elegant reception hall, a guest cloakroom, a spacious lounge, a formal dining room, a fitted conservatory, a superb fitted breakfast kitchen, a utility room, a games room, a downstairs w/c, a master bedroom with en-suite bathroom, two bedrooms with en-suite shower rooms, a spacious fourth bedroom, a family bathroom, UPVC double glazing, gas fired central heating, a garage and a pleasant rear garden. EPC rating E

£394,950

SELDGEY

A seven-bedroom home of considerable style and character that briefly comprises a porch, a reception hall, a sitting room, a drawing room, a panelled dining room, a dining kitchen, a utility room, a garden room, a study, a cloakroom, three en-suite bedrooms, four further bedrooms, a bathroom, a garage and pleasant rear gardens. EPC rating E

£379,950

SELDGEY

A four-bedroom detached home that briefly comprises a reception hall, a guest cloakroom, a spacious open plan lounge / dining room, a superb fitted breakfast kitchen with a range of integrated appliances, four good sized bedrooms, a shower room, UPVC double-glazing, gas fired central heating, a garage and a pleasant rear garden. EPC rating tba

£244,950

MILKING BANK

A four-bedroom detached home that briefly comprises a reception porch, a guest cloakroom, a spacious lounge, a dining room, a conservatory, a fitted breakfast kitchen with a range of integrated appliances, four good sized bedrooms, a shower room, UPVC double-glazing, gas fired central heating, a garage and a pleasant rear garden. EPC rating C

£234,950

BROADLANDS

A four-bedroom detached home that briefly comprises a reception porch, a guest cloakroom, a spacious lounge, a dining room, a conservatory, a fitted breakfast kitchen with a range of integrated appliances, four good sized bedrooms, a shower room, UPVC double-glazing where stated, gas fired central heating, a garage and a pleasant rear garden. EPC rating D

£229,950

WOODSETTON

A four-bedroom link detached home that briefly comprises a reception hall, a guest cloakroom, a spacious lounge, a dining room, a conservatory, a breakfast kitchen, an en-suite master bedroom, three further bedrooms, a family bathroom, a separate driveway, a garage, a garage, UPVC double-glazing where stated, gas fired central heating and a pleasant rear garden with distant views. EPC rating D

£209,950

SELDGEY

A three-bedroom link detached home that briefly comprises a reception porch, a reception hall, a lounge, a sitting room / dining room, a superb fitted breakfast kitchen with a range of integrated appliances, a downstairs w/c, three bedrooms, a bathroom, UPVC double-glazing where stated, gas fired central heating and a pleasant rear garden that enjoys distant views. EPC rating E

£189,950

Cleent View

Old Buffery Gardens, Dudley

Cleent View is a stunning development of brand new two and three-bedroom homes constructed by IP Developments, that are situated in a delightful cul-de-sac location adjacent to Buffery Park in Dudley.

The Ludlow is a three-bedroom detached home that briefly comprises a reception hall, a guest cloakroom, a lounge, an open plan dining kitchen with a comprehensive range of integrated appliances, a master bedroom en-suite, two further bedrooms, a bathroom, UPVC double-glazing, gas fired central heating, a driveway, a 23ft garage and a pleasant rear garden. EPC Rating D

**Prices from
£139,950**



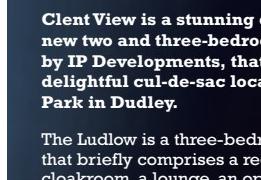
SELDGEY

A two-bedroom semi-detached bungalow that briefly comprises a reception porch, a reception hall, a lounge with a feature bay window, a brand new fitted kitchen with a range of integrated appliances, two bedrooms, a brand new bathroom suite, UPVC double-glazing, gas fired central heating, a garage and a lovely rear garden. EPC rating D

£167,950

SELDGEY

A four-bedroom semi-detached home that briefly comprises a reception porch, a reception hall, a lounge, a separate dining room, a fitted kitchen, four bedrooms, a bathroom with a separate w/c, UPVC double-glazing, gas fired central heating, a 23ft garage and a pleasant rear garden. EPC Rating D

£164,950

COSELEY

The Ludlow is a three-bedroom detached home that briefly comprises a reception hall, a guest cloakroom, a lounge, an open plan dining kitchen with a comprehensive range of integrated appliances, a master bedroom en-suite, two further bedrooms, a bathroom, UPVC double-glazing, gas fired central heating, a driveway, a 23ft garage and a pleasant rear garden. EPC Rating D

£141,950

HURST HILL

The Ludlow is a three-bedroom detached home that briefly comprises a reception porch, a reception hall, a spacious lounge, a dining room, a fitted kitchen, a storage room, a master bedroom en-suite, three further bedrooms, a bathroom, UPVC double-glazing where stated, gas fired central heating, a driveway and a rear garden. EPC Rating C

£138,950

HURST HILL

The Ludlow is a three-bedroom mid terraced property that briefly comprises a reception porch, a lounge, a dining room, a modern fitted kitchen, three bedrooms, a bathroom, UPVC double-glazing, gas fired central heating, a pleasant rear garden and impressive views to the front of the property. EPC Rating F

£112,950

LARKS VIEW

A three-bedroom mid terraced home that briefly comprises a lounge, a fitted dining kitchen with a range of integrated appliances, two double bedrooms, a bathroom, UPVC double-glazing, gas fired central heating, allocated parking and a pleasant rear garden. EPC rating C

£106,950

HURST HILL

A two-bedroom semi-detached home that briefly comprises a reception porch, a lounge, a dining kitchen with a range of integrated appliances, two bedrooms, a bathroom, UPVC double-glazing, gas fired central heating, a driveway and a pleasant rear garden with panoramic views. EPC rating C

£104,950

PENNS WOOD CLOSE

A three-bedroom semi-detached home that briefly comprises a reception porch, a spacious lounge, a conservatory, a fitted kitchen, three bedrooms, a bathroom, UPVC double-glazing where stated, gas fired central heating, a garage and a pleasant rear garden. EPC rating D

£150,950

HURST HILL

A three-bedroom semi-detached home that briefly comprises a reception porch, a reception hall, a 26ft open plan lounge / dining room, a magnificent fitted breakfast kitchen with a comprehensive range of integrated appliances, a side verandah, three double bedrooms, a bathroom, UPVC double-glazing, gas fired central heating, a driveway and a pleasant rear garden. EPC Rating D

£141,950

CATHERINE ROAD

A four-bedroom semi-detached home that briefly comprises a reception porch, a reception hall, a spacious lounge, a dining room, a fitted kitchen, a storage room, a master bedroom en-suite, three further bedrooms, a family bathroom, UPVC double-glazing where stated, gas fired central heating, a driveway and a rear garden. EPC Rating C

£138,950

ROCK ROAD

A three-bedroom mid terraced property that briefly comprises a reception porch, a lounge, a dining room, a modern fitted kitchen, three bedrooms, a bathroom, UPVC double-glazing, gas fired central heating, a pleasant rear garden and impressive views to the front of the property. EPC Rating F

£112,950

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3 Bed

Trysull Way, NETHERTON

NEW



We are delighted to offer this double glazed and gas centrally heated semi-detached property situated on this popular estate. Greeting you at the front of the property is an ample sized block paved driveway. Inside the house is a spacious lounge/dining room with a conservatory on the rear of the building over looking a well kept garden. It has a recently refurbished kitchen with integral oven and fridge/freezer. Early viewings are highly recommended so as to not miss out on this fantastic opportunity.

EPC:C

Netherton Office

£130,000

3 Bed

Highbridge Road, NETHERTON

NEW



A beautifully presented home that has clearly been loved for a number of years by its current owners. The well finished accommodation comprises of; Entrance hall, lounge, dining room, fitted kitchen, utility and wc, three well proportioned bedrooms and house bathroom. Benefiting from double glazing and gas central heating and having an attractive front garden which provides off road parking, early viewing is highly recommended.

EPC:C

Netherton Office

Offers Around £105,000

1 Bed

Dudley Road, ROWLEY REGIS

NEW



A gas centrally heated and double glazed one bedroom ground floor flat in a sought after location. The property is located close to transport links. This property also has it's own private entrance and parking along with a garden to the rear. Offered with NO UPWARD CHAIN! this offers an ideal purchase for a buy to let investor with a rental yield of approximately 10%! Please call now to arrange an appointment to view.

EPC:C

Netherton Office

£54,500

4 Bed

Saltwells Road, NETHERTON

NEW



If four bedrooms and a good sized lounge and kitchen diner is what you need - look no further! This well presented four bedroom home has surprisingly spacious accommodation comprising of; Entrance hall, lounge, kitchen diner, ground floor w.c., four good sized bedrooms, shower room and attractive and private rear garden. Viewing is essential to fully appreciate the size of accommodation on offer.

EPC:E

Netherton Office

Offers Around £127,950

3 Bed

Talbot Road, NETHERTON

NEW



This semi-detached home would be a perfect fit for most discerning buyers. With the benefit of double glazing and gas central heating throughout, the property has been kept to a very high standard inside and out. The through lounge and dining area really brings out the homely vibe about the property. We would definitely recommend getting a early viewing in to avoid disappointment. An ideal opportunity for first time buyers and buy to let investors alike.

EPC:D

Netherton Office

Offers Around £95,950

3 Bed

Metropolitan Lofts, DUDLEY



An immaculately presented second floor apartment set in this wonderfully converted building which benefits from open plan living accommodation laid out over two floors to comprise of Entrance Hallway, Open Plan Lounge/Kitchen Area, Shower Room, Main bedroom to the ground floor and two further bedrooms situated on separate mezzanine floors. It also benefits from secure communal entrance lift, undercroft secure gated allocated parking, basement storage area, electric heating and double glazing.

EPC:B

Netherton Office

£107,000

2 Bed

Central Drive, LOWER GORNAL



This well presented and spacious second floor flat offers an ideal first time purchase or investment opportunity and benefits from NO UPWARD CHAIN, gas central heating, double glazing and accommodation to comprise of entrance hallway, two double bedrooms, kitchen, lounge and modern bathroom. The property also benefits from ample car parking to the fore and loft space. There are views to the rear and access to communal grounds.

EPC:C

Netherton Office

Offers Around £69,950



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Miss Gregory, Netherton

connells.co.uk

Dudley

Connells

Alpine Drive Netherton

£224,950

REDUCED

In a popular cul-de-sac overlooking Netherton Reservoir this three bedroom detached bungalow with garage must be viewed to appreciate accommodation on offer. Energy D.

Snowberry Drive Badgers Rise

175,000

NEW INSTRUCTION

Substantially extended and beautifully improved four bedroom semi benefits through lounge/diner, refitted kitchen and bathroom, master bedroom with en-suite, double garage.

Mansion Close Earls Keep

165,000

REDUCED

Situated on Earls Keep this detached property comprises two reception rooms, kitchen, tiered rear garden, first floor having master bedroom with en-suite, two further bedrooms and bathroom, double glazing as specified. Viewing highly recommended.

New Rowley Road Dudley

159,950

REDUCED

This detached bungalow benefits from three bedrooms, kitchen/breakfast room and lounge. In need of renovation. No Upward Chain. Energy rating F.

Sandfield Bridge

offers over150,000

REDUCED

A traditional end terrace property, entrance porch, through lounge, kitchen/diner, utility room, cloakroom, master bedroom with w.c., two further bedrooms & bathroom, off road, of road parking, double garage, garden to the rear, double glazing as specified, gas central heating. Energy Rating F.

Himley Avenue Dudley

140,000

REDUCED

A well presented semi detached property set in a desirable cul-de-sac location, comprises two reception rooms, three bedrooms., Attractive rear garden. Energy rating C.

Russells Hall Road Russells Hall

139,950

NEW INSTRUCTION

A well presented semi detached comprises hallway, cloakroom, lounge, kitchen/sitting room, three bedrooms, bathroom, garage. Viewing recommended. Energy rating C.

Priory Road Dudley

139,950

NEW INSTRUCTION

An extended well presented semi detached property comprises hallway, lounge, extended kitchen/diner, reception room two, three bedrooms, bathroom, loft room and study. Energy rating F.

Purlin Wharf Netherton

137,950

NEW INSTRUCTION

A well presented semi detached comprises hallway, cloakroom, lounge, kitchen/diner, having master bedroom with en-suite, two further bedrooms and bathroom, Energy rating B.

Brewery Street Dudley

134,950

REDUCED

An extended semi comprises hallway, two reception rooms, bedroom 6/reception room three, shower room, kitchen, first floor having five bedrooms, bathroom, Energy rating D.

Forest Road Dudley

£139,950

REDUCED

A much improved three bedroom semi detached property backing onto the Black Country Museum, benefits conservatory, attic room, attractive rear garden . Energy rating E.

Vanborough Walk Dudley **offers over130,000**

REDUCED

A well presented and extended semi set in cul-de-sac location, benefits dining room, extended lounge and kitchen, three bedrooms and shower room, driveway. Energy rating C.

Grainger Street

117,000

NEW INSTRUCTION

A modernised traditional mid terrace property, accommodation briefly comprises entrance hallway, lounge, kitchen/diner, utility room/study, first floor landing having three bedrooms and bathroom, gardens to the rear, double glazing as specified, central heating. No Upward Chain.

Parkes Hall Road Woodsetton

114,950

REDUCED

A traditional semi detached property, comprises porch, hallway, through lounge, conservatory, kitchen, three bedrooms and bathroom, garage. Energy rating E.

Uxbridge Close Lower Gornal

109,950

REDUCED

A well presented three bedroom property benefiting from double glazing, central heating. Must be viewed to appreciate. Energy rating C.

Corbyn Road Russells Hall

97,000

REDUCED

This well presented semi benefits from through lounge, kitchen, landscaped garden, two good size bedrooms, bathroom. Viewing recommended. No upward chain. Energy rating D.

Lilac Road Dudley

84,950

NEW INSTRUCTION

Semi detached property briefly comprises hall, through lounge, bathroom, kitchen, three bedrooms, w.c., driveway, garden to the rear. Energy rating B.

Baptist End Road Netherton

74,950

REDUCED

A traditional three bedroom terraced property in need of renovation, having two reception rooms, kitchen, bathroom. Rear garden, brick built garage. Energy rating E.

Churchfield Street Dudley

59,950

REDUCED

A three bedroom mid terrace comprises two reception rooms, kitchen, bathroom, three bedrooms, gardens to the rear. No Upward Chain. Energy rating G.

Abberley Street Dudley

49,950

REDUCED

First floor appartment close to Dudley town centre provides lounge, kitchen, two bedrooms, bathroom. With double glazing, parking space, NO UPWARD CHAIN. Energy rating C.

Taylors

www.taylors-estateagents.co.uk

WALL HEATH



Beachwood Avenue

A MODERN DETACHED BUNGALOW within a much sought after cul-de-sac convenient for village shops/amenities, requiring UPDATING AND IMPROVEMENT, providing much potential to enhance the GENEROUS and WELL PLANNED layout, including large lounge, kitchen/diner, two double GLAZING comprising: Reception Hall, 18' Lounge with Dining Area, Kitchen, TWO GOOD BEDROOMS and Bathroom. With attractive front garden, DRIVEWAY, CARPORT, SMALL SECTIONAL GARAGE/STORAGE and a GENEROUS PRIVATE REAR GARDEN. EPC Rating: TBA KINGSWINFORD OFFICE 01384 401777

£149,950

Wombourne



Rowan Road

A GOOD SIZED TRADITIONAL SEMI-DETACHED FAMILY HOME superbly located within a sought after address, upon the fringes of Wombourne Village and close to neighbouring countryside, REQUIRING UPDATING AND IMPROVEMENT, with much potential, including GAS CENTRAL HEATING, UPVC DOUBLE GLAZING, comprising: Reception Hall, large full-depth Lounge, spacious full depth Dining Kitchen, ground floor WC, Utility, THREE GOOD BEDROOMS, Bathroom and separate WC. Gently elevated beyond the DRIVEWAY/FRONT GARDEN and enjoying an EXCELLENT SIZED AND BEAUTIFULLY LAID OUT SUNNY REAR GARDEN. EPC Rating D. KINGSWINFORD OFFICE 01384 401777

£149,950

KINGSWINFORD

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Meadow Lane



Meadow Lane

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COSELEY



COSELEY



Redwood Road

This immaculately presented, upVC double glazed & gas centrally heated semi detached has been conscientiously maintained by the current owners and may be of particular interest to first time buyers. The impressive property briefly comprises entrance hall, stylish lounge, kitchen, splendid CONSERVATORY addition, two double bedrooms, bathroom with white suite, garage, driveway & a low maintenance garden. EPC Rating: TBA. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £109,950

PENSNETT



DUDLEY



DUDLEY

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Greenleighs

LOWER GORNAL



Coopers Bank Road

PART EXCHANGE CONSIDERED. An EXCEPTIONALLY SPACIOUS, modern, freehold, gas centrally heated & upVC double glazed detached family residence of approximately 1,000 sq ft constructed circa 2006 (and covered by remainder of NHBC guarantee) in development of elegant first quality homes. Outstanding accommodation includes: hall, cloakroom, study, map room, large sitting room with bay window, conservatory & double French doors out to garden, superb 'hub of house' 18ft breakfast kitchen with an extensive range of units, fitted appliances & granite work surfaces & a further dining section, breakfast room. Garage landing, FIVE BEDROOMS (principal bedroom with professionally installed units & a shower room en suite), bathroom, garage, expertly landscaped rear gardens. EPC Rating C. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £324,950

WALL HEATH



KINGSWINFORD



KINGSWINFORD

DUDLEY



Priory Close

SEDGLEY



Eden Gardens (Off Gorge Road)

A VERY IMPRESSIVE & SUBSTANTIAL LINK DETACHED FAMILY HOME which enjoys the much sought after cul de sac position CLOSE TO EXCELLENT SCHOOLING, offering BEAUTIFULLY RE-APPOINTED accommodation with GAS CENTRAL HEATING, REPLACEMENT UPVC DOUBLE GLAZING, comprising: through reception hall, ground floor cloakroom, large sitting room with bay window, separate dining room, refitted family dining kitchen, separate utility/laundry room, FOUR LARGE BEDROOMS and attractive house benefits. The property is further enhanced by the large rear garden, off road parking, decked area & a LEVEL REAR GARDEN with patio, lawn, decking and open rear aspect backing onto the Glynde school field. EPC Rating D. KINGSWINFORD OFFICE 01384 401777

£274,950

Offers in the region of £255,000

LOWER GORNAL



ASH GROVE

NEW PRICE

An absolutely outstanding & particularly SPACIOUS, freehold, gas centrally heated & upVC double glazed detached bungalow excellently situated at head of quiet 'backwater' yet within walking distance of the village & all associated amenities. Significantly upgraded by present vendors in recent years, the superb, extremely flexible accommodation provides imposing 30ft. reception hall, 18ft lounge, well equipped breakfast kitchen with a fine range of units & a range, principal bedroom with shower room en suite, two further bedrooms (one presently utilised as a sitting room), reappointed/re-tiled shower room (former bathroom). Former 'garage' converted to a utility/workroom. Block paved foregarden, delightful secluded/landscaped rear garden with fine range of shrubs/plants, patio & decking. EPC Rating: C. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

WAS £228,950, NOW £223,200

COSELEY



Flamborough Way

Offers in the region of £189,950

DUDLEY



Austin Close, Milking Bank

A significantly EXTENDED & conscientiously maintained, gas centrally heated detached family home with secluded rear garden & good distant views from the front. Set upon well regarded development, the carefully planned accommodation includes entrance hall, through lounge, dining room, kitchen/breakfast room, feature gas fire, dining room, upgraded kitchen/pantry, laundry room, fitted cloakroom. Four generous bedrooms (principal bedroom with shower room en suite), reappointed & re-tiled bathroom, extensive parking, secluded rear garden. EPC Rating D. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £179,995

DUDLEY



Elmstone Close

Envitably situated just of Richborough Drive with PANORAMIC DISTANT VIEWS, this most attractive, stylish, upVC double glazed & gas centrally heated detached family home occupies a corner plot & is in exemplary order throughout. Accommodation comprises entrance hall, guest w.c., kitchen with a fine range of units, transverse lounge/dining room, three good bedrooms (principal bedroom with en suite), shower room, bathroom, walk-in store (two lofts), 17'6" garage, gardens. EPC Rating C. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £176,950



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**Brierley Hill
KELLING CLOSE**

**NEW
INSTRUCTION**

Recently refurbished throughout this three bedroom semi detached house is located in a highly desirable area and briefly comprises of porch, lounge, dining kitchen, upstairs bathroom, gardens to the front and rear, driveway and garage.

£134,950

**Dudley
PAGANEL DRIVE**

**NEW
PRICE**

AN EXTENDED and beautifully presented three bedroom semi detached property briefly comprising of lounge, extended second reception room, extended dining room, kitchen/breakfast room, downstairs wc, upstairs family bathroom, beautiful extensive rear garden and ample off road parking. Viewing is highly recommended.

£194,950

**BRADLEY
Wesley Street**

Set in a corner position this three bedroom semi detached house briefly comprises of porch, hallway, lounge, kitchen with dining area, utility room, garage and driveway to the front, side and rear

£125000 o/o

**TIVIDALE
Tower Road**

Set in a corner position this three bedroom semi detached house briefly comprises of porch, hallway, lounge, kitchen with dining area, utility room, garage and driveway to the front, side and rear

£125000 o/o

**Gornal
CENTRAL DRIVE**

**NEW
INSTRUCTION**

A recently renovated two bedroom end terraced house with hallway, lounge, modern fitted kitchen, upstairs bathroom, driveway and garden to the rear.

£99,950

**Tividale
PINE ROAD**

**NEW
INSTRUCTION**

An immaculately presented extended two bedroom semi detached house with hallway, large lounge with dining area, fitted kitchen, upstairs bathroom, driveway to the front for two cars and gardens to the front and rear

£119,950

A superb collection of four two bedroom brand new properties built by Parkes Homes with LABC warranty. Briefly comprising Hallway, Dining Kitchen, Lounge, DWC, En-suite Shower Room with allocated parking and private rear garden. Generous specification throughout. Spacious 1 & 2 bedroom apartments available for £79,950 Call Jeanette on 07583 580019

£119,950

**TIVIDALE
Hoylake Drive**

Located in this highly desirable location this three bedroom detached house briefly comprises of lounge, dining area, fitted kitchen, gardens to the front and rear, driveway and garage.

£159,950

**Tividale
ELM TERRACE**

A two bedroom semi detached house which is immaculate throughout and briefly comprises of hallway, lounge, dining kitchen, upstairs shower room, driveway and a good sized garden to the rear

£110,000 o/o

**Netherton
CRESCENT ROAD**

A deceptively spacious three bedroom end terraced house briefly comprising of lounge, inner hallway with door to cellar, second reception room, kitchen, downstairs bathroom, three good size bedrooms and garden to the rear with two brick built sheds

£80,000 o/o

**TIVIDALE
Pine Road**

A beautifully presented and much improved three bedroom traditional style detached house briefly comprising of lounge, modern fitted kitchen/breakfast room, three good size bedrooms, re-fitted bathroom suite, garage, a generous size rear garden and off road parking. Viewing is highly recommended to appreciate the size and condition.

£145,000

**Coseley
IVYHOUSE LANE**

REDUCED BY £10000 FOR A FAST SALE. A deceptively spacious traditional two bedroom "butt" style detached house with many original features. The house briefly comprises of hallway, lounge, dining room, larger than average kitchen, sun room, downstairs wc, large bathroom, driveway and an extensive garden to the rear

£124,950 o/o

**DUDLEY
Sledmore Road**

**NEW
INSTRUCTION**

An extended traditional three bedroom semi detached house with two reception rooms, extended kitchen/breakfast room, downstairs wet room with wc, family bathroom to the first floor, garden to the rear and driveway to the front

£119,950

**TIVIDALE
Elm Terrace**

A deceptively spacious three bedroom semi detached house briefly comprising of lounge, kitchen/dining room, conservatory, family bathroom, rear garden and off road parking.

£127,000

**Dudley
ATTINGHAM DRIVE**

A four bedroom three storey detached family home with two reception rooms, kitchen/family room, two en-suite shower rooms, roof terrace with views of Dudley Castle, driveway, garage, garden to the rear. Viewing is essential

£239,950

**TIPTON
Warren Close**

A modern first floor apartment with lounge, kitchen, two bedrooms and bathroom. This property is not available for buy to let due to lease restrictions.

£52,000

**Tividale
DARBY'S HILL ROAD**

A three bedroom detached house with hallway, lounge, dining room, further reception area, fitted kitchen, downstairs wc, gardens to the front and rear and driveway

£169,950

**BRIERLEY HILL
High Street**

**NEW
INSTRUCTION**

One bed first floor flat, communal entrance, lounge, fitted kitchen, double bedroom, bathroom/WC with shower over the bath. Unfurnished, newly carpeted. DSS considered with guarantor, deposit scheme available through Dudley Council.

£350 PCM

**DUDLEY
Brooke Street**

TO LET

A ground floor flat, newly decorated having one bedroom, one reception room, newly fitted kitchen, bathroom/WC, central heating and double glazing. Unfurnished, no DSS ok with guarantor.

£350 PCM

**TIVIDALE
Alexandra Way**

**NEW
INSTRUCTION**

A one bed, second floor, self contained flat, newly refurbished, with newly fitted kitchen/diner/lounge, bedroom and bathroom. Allocated parking, good transport links, shops nearby. Unfurnished. Dss ok with guarantor.

£375 PCM

**DUDLEY
Hallchurch Road**

TO LET

One bedroom 1st floor flat. The upper floor of a converted detached house. Access is via a driveway, with off road parking. Fitted kitchen to include cooker and built in oven, with corner bath and shower. New carpet to be fitted in bedroom. Unfurnished.

£395 PCM

**PENFIELDS
Rooker Crescent**

**NEW
INSTRUCTION**

A three bed semi detached house. Lounge to the front, kitchen and rear garden room, downstairs shower/WC. Upstairs three bedrooms, main bedroom with WC and sink off. Off road parking. Unfurnished. DSS considered with guarantor.

£500 PCM

**WEDNESBURY
Clarkson Road**

TO LET

A three bed first floor apartment with large lounge/dining kitchen, Central Heating, Double Glazing, three good sized bedrooms, bathroom/WC, one shower/WC, utility room. Suitable for sharers. Parking to Rear

£525 PCM

**ROWLEY REGIS
Highfield Road**

TO LET

A three bed terraced house, double glazing, central heating, one reception, 3 double bedrooms and house bathroom upstairs. Unfurnished. Dss considered if on rent deposit scheme with the council.

£525 PCM

**DUDLEY
Lomond Road**

**NEW
PRICE**

A three bed mid terraced property having a fitted kitchen/diner, lounge and house bathroom/WC with shower over the bath. Garden to rear with rear access, off road parking (not allocated). Unfurnished, available now. No Dss, no pets.

£550 PCM

**DUDLEY
Priory Street**

TO LET

A 4 bedroom 2nd floor apartment. Large lounge, three double bedrooms & further single. En suite to one of the double bedrooms. Bathrooms, fitted kitchen with built in oven & free standing washing machine. Unfurnished & available now. No Dss.

£550 PCM

**DUDLEY
Westley Street**

**NEW
INSTRUCTION**

A three 3 bed family home, parking for 2 cars with garage, double glazed with central heating, 2 double bedrooms (main with ensuite shower/WC) and 1 single room, plenty of storage, unfurnished, near to amenities, available August 2013. No Dss, no pets, no DSS.

£595PCM

£650 PCM

£550 PCM

£595PCM

£795 PCM



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DUDLEY



SCOTTS GREEN CLOSE
 •EPC Rating D•Three Bedroom Bungalow•Lounge•Dining Room•Bathroom•Dining Room•Garage•Rear Garden

£200,000 DUDLEY 01384 455000

MILKING BANK



SALISBURY CLOSE

•EPC Rating D•Two Bedroom Semi Detached•Lounge•Kitchen Diner•Double Glazing Where Stated•Gas Central Heating System•Drive•Sought After Location•No Chain

£135,000 DUDLEY 01384 455000

NETHERTON



BLACKBROOK ROAD

•EPC Rating Awaited•Two Bedroom & Attic Bedroom Used As Bedroom Three Mid Terraced•Lounge•Dining Room/Kitchen/Bathroom Upstairs•Double Glazing Where Stated•Gas Central Heating System•Low Maintenance Rear

£114,950 DUDLEY 01384 455000

GORNAL WOOD



HIMLEY ROAD

•EPC Grade C•A Deceptive Extended Three Bedroom Detached Bungalow•En-Suite Bathroom To Main Bedroom•Lounge & Extended Dining Room•Extended Fitted Kitchen Conservatory•Attic Room•Garage•Utility Room•Double Glazing Where Stated•Gas Central Heating System•Drive

£185,000 DUDLEY 01384 455000

TIVIDALE



REDWOOD AVENUE

•EPC Rating Awaited•Two Bedroom Semi Detached•Lounge•Kitchen Diner•Gas Central Heating System•Double Glazing Where Stated•Rear Garden Overlooking Canals•Drive•No Chain

£87,500 DUDLEY 01384 455000

TIPTON



TIPTON

•Modern Two Bedroom Apartment•Lounge/Diner•Fitted Kitchen•Double Glazing•Bathroom•Available Now

£475 DUDLEY 01384 455000

TIPTON



LET
Similar Properties Required

BONNEVILLE CLOSE
 Modern Two Bedroom Ground Floor Apartment. Having A Spacious Lounge/Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen With Built In Oven & Hob, Two Double Bedrooms & A Bathroom. Outside, Allocated Parking & Communal Gardens.

£495 PCM DUDLEY 01384 455000

TIVIDALE



DARBYS HILL ROAD
 •EPC Rating C•An Extended & Well Presented Detached Property•Four Bedrooms•Extended Kitchen/Dining Room•Rear Lounge Overlooking Rear Garden•Ground Floor Cloakroom•Utility Room•Drive

£199,950 DUDLEY 01384 455000

TIPTON



BARTLETT CLOSE
 •EPC Rating E•An Improved & Extended Semi Detached•Three Bedrooms•Through Lounge/Dining Room•Conservatory•Utility Room•Bathroom•Garage•Low Maintenance Rear Garden

£130,000 DUDLEY 01384 455000

OLDBURY



TITFORD ROAD
 •EPC Rating Awaited•An Improved Mid Terraced Residence•Two Double Bedrooms•Two Reception Rooms•Kitchen•Ground Floor Bathroom•Double Glazing Where Stated•Gas Central Heating System•Enclosed Rear

£99,950 DUDLEY 01384 455000

ROWLEY REGIS



FARM ROAD
 •EPC Rating Awaited•Three Bedroom Semi Detached•Two Reception Rooms•Kitchen•Bathroom Upstairs•Rear Garden•In Need Of Modernizing•No Chain

£79,950 DUDLEY 01384 455000

DUDLEY



ELM ROAD
 •EPC Rating D•End Terraced Residence•Attic Bedroom & Two Further Bedrooms•Lounge•Kitchen•Ground Floor Cloakroom•Double Glazing Where Stated•Gas Central Heating System•Rear Garden•No Chain

£75,000 DUDLEY 01384 455000

DUDLEY WOOD



QUARRY ROAD
 •EPC Rating Awaited•Bay Fronted Semi Detached•Three Bedrooms•Lounge•Dining Room & Kitchen•Bathroom Having White Suite•Double Glazing Where Stated•Gas Central Heating System•Enclosed Rear Garden•Drive

£139,950 DUDLEY 01384 455000

KINGSWINFORD



NANAIMO WAY
 •EPC Rating C•An Improved Three Bedroom Semi Detached•Lounge•Dining Room•Fitted Kitchen•Ground Floor Wet Room•Bathroom Upstairs•Double Glazing Where Stated•Gas Central Heating System•Drive

£120,000 DUDLEY 01384 455000

DUDLEY



BUNNS LANE
 •EPC Rating Awaited•An Improved Semi Detached•Three Bedrooms•Lounge•Dining Room•Fitted Kitchen•Ground Floor Bathroom•Drive

£94,950 DUDLEY 01384 455000

UPPER GORNAL



NAYLORS GROVE
 •EPC RATING AWAITED•An Improved Two Bedroom Ground Floor Flat•Fitted Kitchen•Lounge•Bathroom•Double Glazing Where Stated•Gas Central Heating System•Viewing Recommended

£80,000 DUDLEY 01384 455000

TIPTON



BELMONT CLOSE
 •EPC Rating F•Two Bedrooms
 •Lounge•Kitchen•Conservatory•Bathroom•Double Glazing Where Stated•Drive•No Chain

£74,950 DUDLEY 01384 455000



HILTON ROAD
 A Traditional Semi Detached Property With Driveway To Front & Rear Garden. Accommodation Briefly Comprises Of Lounge, Fitted Kitchen & Bathroom Downstairs With Two Double Bedrooms Upstairs.

£495 PCM DUDLEY 01384 455000



Tipton

TO LET
Similar Properties Required

£495 PCM DUDLEY 01384 455000



ANCHOR DRIVE
 •Modern Two Bedroom Apartment•Lounge/Diner•Fitted Kitchen•Double Glazing•Bathroom•Available Now

£475 DUDLEY 01384 455000



TO LET
Similar Properties Required

545pcm DUDLEY 01384 455000

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QUILTER CLOSE
 EPC C. Modern 4 bedroom detached having lounge, dining room, kitchen, ground floor cloakroom to the ground floor, master bedroom having en suite, three further bedrooms and bathroom. Externally having drive, rear garden &

700pcm DUDLEY 01384 455000



Birch Crescent
 •Traditional Two Bedroom Semi-Detached
 •Sought After Location •Driveway •Modern Fitted Kitchen/Diner •Refurbished •Close to Local Bus Stops •EPC Rating D
 •Viewing Recommended •EPC Rating D

525pcm DUDLEY 01384 455000



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LOWER GORNAL
 •EPC Rating F•Three Bedroom Semi Detached•Lounge•Fitted Kitchen Having Integrated Hob & Oven•Bathroom Having White Suite•Double Glazing•Central

£575 DUDLEY 01384 455000

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Wolverhampton Waterside Close		Wolverhampton Hilton Road		Wolverhampton Lower Prestwood Road
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attractive three bed semi • GCH and DG • Breakfast kitchen with appliances • Landscaped gardens <p>£595pcm</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Single garage facility • ORP • Energy Rating - C • Great Bridge office 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three bed semi • Two reception rooms • Downstairs bathroom • Popular residential area <p>£550pcm</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy Rating - D • Sedgley office • 01902 686868 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attractive two bed mid town house • GCH and DG • Fitted kitchen • Enclosed rear garden <p>£495pcm</p>
				
Tipton Great Meadow		Bilston Meldon Drive		Tipton Oak Close
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One bed coach house • Fully fitted kitchen. • DG & CH • Spacious lounge. <p>£450pcm</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Private rear garden • Garage • Energy Rating - C 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three bed semi • ORP • Private garden area • DG and CH <p>£425pcm</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One bed ground floor flat • Private residential area • Hall & lounge • Kitchen with appliances 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bathroom with shower • Energy Rating - D • Viewing recommended <p>£375pcm</p>
				
Tipton Wenyon Close	Moxley High Street	West Bromwich Tame Street		Dudley Madison Avenue
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spacious detached home • CH and DG • Three bedrooms • Rear garden • Kitchen with oven and • Energy Rating - D <p>£600pcm</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Double glazing • Alarmed • ORP • Energy Rating - TBC <p>£575pcm</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spacious three bed link detached house • GCH & DG. Kitchen with appliances • Living room • French doors to garden • Bathroom with bath & shower • ORP & Garage • Great Bridge office • Energy Rating - D 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three bed family home • Kitchen with gas cooker • Bath and Shower facilities • CH & DG <p>£575pcm</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conservatory • Garage • Energy Rating - E
				
Bilston Attlee Crescent	Hagley Millpool Close		Netherton Purlin Wharf	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three bed semi • Unfurnished • Fully fitted kitchen with cooker • GCH <p>£525pcm</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Double glazing • Alarmed • ORP • Energy Rating - TBC <p>£525pcm</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two bed ground floor apartment • Kitchen with appliances • Bathroom with bath and shower • Garage and parking space 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two bed flat • First floor • Fully fitted kitchen • Spacious lounge 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Electric heated • Pleasant canal views • Energy Rating - TBC • Great Bridge office <p>£525pcm</p>
				
Sedgley Kings Road	Wednesbury Old College Drive	Tipton Mayfair Gardens		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delighful two bed terraced home • Fitted kitchen • Two reception rooms • Bathroom with separate WC • Double glazing • Energy Rating - D <p>£525pcm</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Double glazing • Rear garden • Energy Rating - D <p>£525pcm</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two bed first floor apartment • Fitted kitchen with appliances • Lounge with doors onto Juliet balcony • Communal gardens. Allocated parking 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Detached two bed bungalow • GCH and DG • Single rear garage • Bathroom with shower 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kitchen with cooker and fridge • Rear garden • Energy Rating - D <p>£500pcm</p>
				
Tipton Powis Avenue	Tipton Middle Meadow	Tipton Bedford Street	Kingswinford Maidensbridge Road	Wolverhampton Shaylor Grove
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three bed semi • Unfurnished • DG and GCH • Fully fitted kitchen • Bathroom with bath • Separate WC • Double glazing • Energy Rating - E <p>£495pcm</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Double glazing • Security intercom system • Fitted kitchen • Lounge with Juliet balcony • Fitted kitchen • Bathrooms with shower • Allocated parking • Energy Rating - C <p>£475pcm</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two bed first floor apartment • Fitted kitchen with oven and hob • Bathrooms with shower • Allocated parking • Electric heating • DG & ORP <p>£450pcm</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ground floor flat • Communal gardens • Large double bedroom • Electric heating • DG & ORP • Bathroom with shower • Useful internal storage area • Must be viewed! • Great Bridge office <p>£450pcm</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GCH • Energy Rating - D • Available immediately • Great Bridge office <p>£450pcm</p>
				
Dudley Sedgley Road	Tipton Bonneville Close	Willenhall Bow Street		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One bed first floor apt • CH and DG • Kitchen with appliances • Double bedroom with • Fitted wardrobes • Energy Rating - E • Great Bridge office • Must be viewed! <p>£425pcm</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DG & GCH • Security intercom system • Fitted kitchen • Lounge with Juliette balcony • Bathrooms with bath & shower • Allocated parking • Energy Rating - B <p>£410pcm</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two bed mid-terrace house • Fully refurbished including new kitchen and bathroom • Newly decorated throughout. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Central heated and double glazed • Dining kitchen • Bathroom with shower. • Energy Rating D <p>£395pcm</p>	

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- SUPERB KITCHEN WITH BUILT IN OVEN & HOB
- REFITTED BATHROOM WITH SHOWER OVER THE BATH
- GAS CENTRAL HEATING & UPVC DOUBLE GLAZING
- PAVED REAR GARDEN & GATED CAR PORT AND GARAGE

£550 PCM NO DSS_NO PETS

NEW



- SUPERB & SPACIOUS SEMI DETACHED FAMILY HOME
- THREE DOUBLE BEDROOMS
- ATTRACTIVE LOUNGE WITH FEATURE FIRE PLACE
- SPLENDID FITTED KITCHEN WITH COOKER
- BATHROOM WITH SHOWER OVER THE BATH
- ELECTRIC HEATING
- DELIGHTFUL REAR GARDEN WITH TWO SHEDS
- DRIVE WAY

£550 PCM

NEW



- IMPRESSIVE MEWS HOUSE • TWO BEDROOMS
- SPLENDID LOUNGE WITH FEATURE FIRE PLACE
- ATTRACTIVE FITTED KITCHEN WITH OVEN & HOB
- SUPERB CONSERVATORY
- BATHROOM WITH SHOWER OVER THE BATH
- GAS CENTRAL HEATING & UPVC DOUBLE GLAZING
- DELIGHTFUL REAR GARDEN & DRIVE WAY

£510 PCM NO PETS_NO DSS

NEW



- ATTRACTIVE TERRACE PROPERTY
- TWO BEDROOMS + SPLENDID LOUNGE
- DINING KITCHEN WITH OVEN & HOB
- BATHROOM
- GAS CENTRAL HEATING & UPVC DOUBLE GLAZING
- DELIGHTFUL REAR GARDEN

£450 PCM NO PETS

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- REFITTED KITCHEN • REFITTED BATHROOM
- ELECTRIC STORAGE HEATING & UPVC DOUBLE GLAZING • DELIGHTFUL REAR GARDEN
- DRIVE WAY

£550 PCM NO PETS

NEW



- IMPRESSIVE SEMI DETACHED PROPERTY
- TWO BEDROOMS • SPLENDID LARGE LOUNGE
- SUPERB FITTED KITCHEN WITH BUILT IN OVEN & HOB
- BATHROOM WITH SHOWER OVER THE BATH
- GAS CENTRAL HEATING & UPVC DOUBLE GLAZING
- DELIGHTFUL REAR GARDEN
- DRIVE WAY

£525 PCM NO DSS_NO PETS

NEW



- SUPERB FIRST FLOOR APARTMENT
- TWO BEDROOMS • MASTER WITH WARDROBES
- SPLENDID LOUNGE
- FITTED KITCHEN WITH APPLIANCES
- BATHROOM WITH SHOWER OVER THE BATH
- UPVC DOUBLE GLAZING & ELECTRIC HEATING
- INTERCOM ENTRANCE HALL & ALLOCATED PARKING

£395 PCM NO PETS_NO DSS

NEW



- IMPRESSIVE MODERN HOUSE
- ONE DOUBLE BEDROOM
- SPLENDID LOUNGE
- FITTED KITCHEN WITH OVEN & HOB
- BATHROOM WITH SHOWER OVER THE BATH
- DOUBLE GLAZING, GAS CENTRAL HEATING
- DRIVE WAY

£410 PCM NP DSS_NO PETS

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Clifton Street

- * A traditional DETACHED home
- * Open plan lounge/dining room
- * Modern Kitchen
- * Three good size bedrooms
- * An excellent size bathroom
- * Rear gardens & garage
- * Off road parking for 2/3 cars
- * An ideal family home
- * EPC Rating - E

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £179,950



Attingham Drive

- * A Modern TOWN HOUSE
- * Set over three storeys
- * Contemporary & spacious
- * Lounge & Dining Kitchen
- * FOUR double bedrooms
- * Three En-suites
- * Allocated parking for 2/3 cars
- * Rear garden set over 2 tiers
- * EPC Rating - C

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £169,950



Oakleigh Drive

- * A £5,000 PRICE REDUCTION
- * A MODERN townhouse style
- * Sought after location
- * Fabulous open view to the rear
- * Three bedrooms
- * Lounge, open plan kitchen/dining room
- * Gas central heating & Upvc double glazing
- * EPC Rating - D

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £157,000



Beechfield Grove

- * A beautifully presented semi-detached
- * Positioned on a corner plot
- * Open design lounge/dining room
- * Modern kitchen, utility, guest wc
- * Study, reception 3 (garage converted)
- * Upvc double glazing
- * Gas central heating
- * Extensive parking
- * EPC rating - C

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £154,950



Ripley Grove

- * Modern three bed end townhouse
- * Positioned on an exclusive small development.
- * Built 5 years ago , NHBC warranty
- * Lounge, open plan dining kitchen
- * Downstairs cloakroom
- * En-suite to master bedroom
- * Driveway parking
- * Epc Rating - C

OFFERS IN EXCESS OF £150,000



George Road

- * A 'Chalet' style semi-detached property
- * Upgraded & enhanced accommodation
- * Modern dining kitchen
- * Conservatory
- * Three bedrooms
- * Garage with utility facilities
- * Gas central heating
- * Rear garden
- * EPC Rating - C

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £134,950



Parkes Hall Road

- * A beautifully presented semi-detached
- * Having been enhanced to high standard
- * Open plan, contemporary dining kitchen
- * Three bedrooms and bathroom
- * Upvc double glazing & central heating
- * Off road parking for several vehicles
- * Well maintained rear garden
- * AN IDEAL FIRST TIME BUY
- * EPC Rating - D

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £131,500



Birmingham New Road

- * Spacious three bed traditional semi
- * Enhanced throughout , contemporary theme
- * Open plan kitchen/dining room
- * Lounge * Conservatory
- * Upvc double glazing
- * Gas central heating
- * Driveway parking
- * Epc Rating - D

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £129,950



Clifton Street

- * An impressive end terraced
- * Enhanced throughout
- * Spacious Dining room
- * Lounge with feature wood burner
- * Breakfast kitchen
- * Two double bedrooms
- * Delightful rear garden
- * Viewing highly recommended
- * EPC Rating - E

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £119,950



Cross Lane

- * A recently built semi-detached
- * Remaining LABC guarantee
- * Modern dining kitchen
- * Two good size bedrooms
- * Upvc double glazing
- * Rear garden and driveway parking
- * IDEAL FIRST TIME BUY
- * In walking distance to Sedgley Village
- * EPC Rating - B

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £117,500



Rock Street

- * Beautifully appointed mid -terrace cottage
- * Two double bedrooms
- * Excellent sized lounge
- * Modern dining kitchen
- * Upvc double glazed windows.
- * Pleasant tiered rear garden with a sunny position
- * Garage and off road parking
- * Available immediately

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £99,995



The Alley

- * A three bedroom semi-detached in quiet location close to the nature reserve
- * Good all round overlooking rear garden
- * Double Glazed, side lobby and hallway
- * Gas central heating and upvc double glazing
- * Pleasant tiered rear garden with a sunny position
- * Garage and off road parking
- * Available immediately

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Motoring

Compiled by Motoring
Editor Sharon Walters

Superb set to stay ahead of the field

By Iain Dooley

BUILDING on the successful formula of space, refinement and generous levels of standard equipment, Skoda's latest generation Superb packs all the familiar qualities that's already convinced so many to sign on the dotted line.

Improvements to the Superb might not be immediately obvious, however Skoda has focused on the things that matter: cleaning up the engine range, sharpening up the car's looks to mirror that of the Rapid and latest Octavia, and adding some welcome extra kit.

Sculptured

Although the cosmetic changes are subtle, out has gone the slightly generic Skoda design, replaced by a more sculptured look fore and aft.

Inside the car's cabin it is largely business as usual. Detailed trim and material changes have done a good job of ensuring the Superb's cabin remains a plush environment for all occupants, though.

As before, this Superb's main selling point is its cabin space. Extended in all the right areas, front seat occupants are made to feel special while those in the rear can stretch out thanks to the generous amount of legroom offered. In

the influential premium saloon class, rear space is important. You may be transporting clients or paying customers – either way, the Superb's extra inches do much to create an appealing executive ambience. And that's before you consider the car's voluminous boot – seats up or down.

You won't be paying executive prices for the Superb, though. As with the previous generation car, the sums involved are modest for something of this size and opulence. And Skoda is hoping that its generosity in the equipment department will prompt buyers to place the Superb high on their shopping lists, especially as similarly priced rivals offer less space and kit for similar money.

Generous

With four models to choose from (S, SE, Elegance and top-spec), the act of making a choice is no longer a simple one as there's a generous spread of standard kit even on the lower-spec models now.

Furthermore, this ensures the car remains competitive in the crowded company car market when value for money is a key driving force in purchasing decisions.

With alloy wheels, air conditioning, Blue-tooth, electric windows and mirrors, chilled glovebox and seven airbags forming part of the Superb's core standard kit list, even the entry-level S model is hard to ignore.

SE models gain larger alloy wheels, a touch-screen audio screen and a greater choice of audio inputs, rear parking sensors plus a host of detailed interior and exterior trim accents.



The new Skoda Superb has seen design changes including a more sculptured look

The move up to Elegance sees a big uplift in specification, with xenon headlights, bigger (again) alloy wheels, touchscreen navigation, heated and powered front seats, leather upholstery and a heated windscreen.

Skoda's traditional flagship Laurent & Klement model adds front parking sensors, more leather heated rear seats, an upgraded audio unit, TV tuner, privacy glass and gloss black cabin trim.

Skoda's generosity also extends to its engine range, greater efficiencies should mean you pay less at the pumps and to the taxman.

Some models benefit from cuts to CO2 emissions as high as 19 per cent, while Skoda boasts

that every model delivers more miles per gallon and emits less at the tailpipe.

Buyers can choose from three petrol and three diesel engines, plus manual and DSG gearboxes depending on the particular model. Unusually in this sector there's also the option of all-wheel drive on selected variants, which will no doubt add a welcome all-weather dimension to the Superb for some buyers.

With diesel power the mainstay of the range, the choice ranges from a 1.6-litre 105 horsepower unit to a 2.0-litre unit in 140 and 170 horsepower guise. Petrol fans can choose between 1.4 and 1.8-litre units offering 125hp and 160hp respectively, plus a 3.6-litre V6 pro-



The Superb's plush interior

ducing 260hp. Overall performance is, as you'd expect, biased towards refinement and comfort. The big Superb, surprises with its agility yet there's no escaping the fact that it's built primarily to cosset its occupants. The well-weighted major controls and slick actions of the minor switchgear help boost the cabin's already impressive ambience, while the smooth-shifting transmissions – both manual and DSG – cement the car's place in the premium sector.

Just like with the previous incarnations of the Superb, Skoda has again produced a refined, spacious, enjoyable-to-drive mid-size executive car, that, in reality, offers so much more than the established competition.

With a competitive pricing strategy plus innovative technology and good looks, Skoda has a car that continues to live up to its name.

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Motoring



The new option pack is available on the Premier versions of the Lexus IS 250 and IS 300h

Option pack available for the Lexus IS saloon

FOLLOWING the launch of the new IS saloon, Lexus is giving customers the opportunity to add a suite of advanced safety features and driving aids to their vehicle with an additional option pack.

Available exclusively for the flagship Premier versions of the new IS 250 and full hybrid IS 300h, the £1,540 pack adds Pre-Crash Safety system (PCS), Adaptive Cruise Control (ACC), Lane Departure Assist (LDA) and Automatic High Beam (AHB).

The PCS system uses a millimetre-wave radar sensor that operates over a

20-degree scanning radius to detect obstacles in the vehicle's path, even when cornering.

If there is a high risk of a collision, PCS will alert the driver with a buzzer and warning on the multimedia display, activate the Pre-Crash seatbelt pretensioners, and, when the driver begins to brake, provide Pre-Crash brake assist to supplement the braking effort. If the driver does not brake and a collision becomes inevitable, the Pre-Crash brake will automatically apply the brakes to reduce impact speed.

The Adaptive Cruise Control can operate on a set constant speed or monitor the speed of the car in front and keep a prescribed distance,

braking and accelerating safely and automatically. The Lane Departure Assist system monitors road markings using a camera mounted on the rear-view mirror. If it detects the vehicle is deviating from its lane without the turn signals being used, it alerts the driver by sounding a buzzer and showing a warning on the instrument display.

The Automatic High Beam function for the headlamps maximises night-time visibility by automatically switching to low beam when the system's camera detects the lights of an oncoming vehicle, or one travelling ahead.

This means the high beam can be used for the safe maximum time.

CR-V 2.0 S £259 a month, **0% APR Representative**, 4 years' servicing for £399

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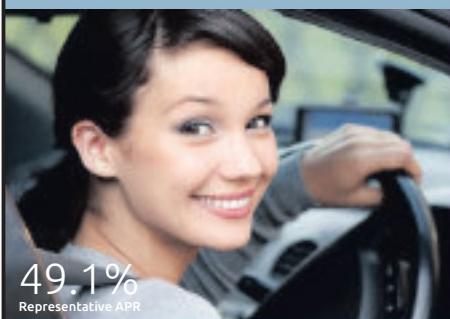
Fuel consumption figures for CR-V range in mpg (l/100km): Urban 28.0 - 43.5 (10.1 - 6.5), Extra Urban 43.5 - 55.4 (5.6 - 5.1), Combined 36.7 - 50.4 (7.7 - 5.6). CO₂ emissions: 180 - 149g/km. Fuel consumption figures sourced from official EU-regulated laboratory test results, are provided for comparison purposes and may not reflect real-life driving experience.

Model shown: CR-V 2.0 i-VTEC 5 2WD Manual in optional Passion Red Pearl at £22,005 On The Road. **Terms and Conditions:** New retail CR-V 5 registrations from 1 July to 30 September 2013. Subject to model and colour availability. Offers applicable at participating dealers and are at the promoter's absolute discretion. **Honda Aspirations (P&P):** £259 per month example based on CR-V 2.0 i-VTEC 5 2WD Manual in metallic/pearl paint at £22,005 total cash price (and total amount payable) with 36 months' **0% APR Representative** (interest rate per annum 0% fixed) with £5,673.81 (26%) deposit. Optional Final Payment of £7,007.06, annual mileage of 10,000 and excess mileage charge 6p per mile. You do not have to pay the Final Payment if you return the car at the end of the agreement and you have paid all other amounts due, the vehicle is in good condition and has been serviced in accordance with the Honda service book and the maximum annual mileage has not been exceeded. Indemnities may be required in certain circumstances. Finance is only available to persons aged 18 or over, subject to status. All figures are correct at time of publication but may be subject to change. Credit provided by Honda Finance Europe Plc. 470 London Road, Slough, Berkshire SL3 8QY. **Servicing:** Four years' servicing or 50,000 miles, whichever comes first, for £399 including VAT and includes a maximum of four manufacturer's scheduled services.

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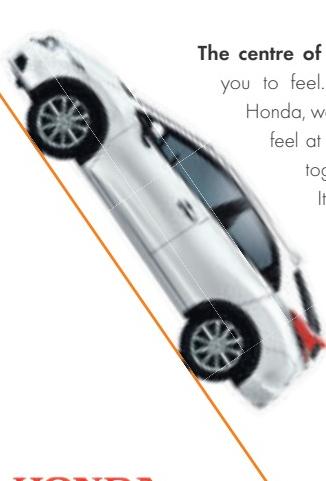
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Fuel consumption figures for the Civic range in mpg (l/100km): Urban 32.5 - 70.6 (8.7 - 4.0), Extra Urban 54.3 - 85.6 (5.2 - 3.3), Combined 44.1 - 78.5 (6.4 - 3.6). CO₂ emissions: 150 - 94g/km. Fuel consumption figures sourced from official EU-regulated laboratory test results, are provided for comparison purposes and may not reflect real-life driving experience.

Model shown: Civic 1.4 i-VTEC SE Manual in optional White Orchid Pearl at £17,495 On The Road. **Terms and Conditions:** New retail Civic 1.4 i-VTEC SE Manual in metallic/pearl paint at £17,495 total cash price (and total amount payable) with 36 months' **0% APR Representative** (interest rate per annum 0% fixed) with £3,999.22 (22%) deposit. Optional Final Payment of £6,421.90, annual mileage of 10,000 and excess mileage charge 5p per mile. You do not have to pay the Final Payment if you return the car at the end of the agreement and you have paid all other amounts due, the vehicle is in good condition and has been serviced in accordance with the Honda service book and the maximum annual mileage has not been exceeded. Indemnities may be required in certain circumstances. Finance is only available to persons aged 18 or over, subject to status. All figures are correct at time of publication but may be subject to change. Credit provided by Honda Finance Europe Plc. 470 London Road, Slough, Berkshire SL3 8QY. **Servicing:** Four years' servicing or 50,000 miles, whichever comes first, for £399 including VAT and includes a maximum of four manufacturer's scheduled services.

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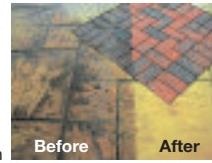
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ATTRACTIVE female, young, 49, 5ft 7ins, brown hair, blue eyes, slim, genuine, loyal, easygoing, GSOH, seeks tall, handsome male, 40-50 for fun times, friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406135

SINGLE cuddly female, 5ft 6ins, green eyes, seeks male, 40-50 for fun and more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406015

DISCREET kind man sought by married lady, must be discreet and reliable as am I. ACA. Tel No: 0905 002 1957 Box 335785

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MARIA 38, blonde, 5ft 5ins, caring, likes nights in/out, seeks caring male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 329319

SHAZ 33 easygoing voluptuous black female with lovely smile and personality to match, loves music, keeping fit and looking good, WLTM appreciative guy Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 404819

62YR old female, widowed, small, slim, attractive, kind, outgoing, likes meals out, dancing, holidays, nights in, seeking professional gent. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 394106

BLONDE attractive educated lady 50, young minded, seeks professional tall male, 45-55 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 391818

YOUNG looking, pretty female, 40, Brunette, slim, no ties, N/S, seeks attractive, refined male for friendship/relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 313115

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ATTRACTIVE lady, GSOH, slim, dark hair, 50's, likes walks, films, art, meals out, seeks male with GSOH and similar interests for friendship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 399245

FUN loving lady, outgoing, honest, caring, likes socialising, sees older male, 50-70. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 383325

KIND romantic female, 50, seeking a male to talk, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 368429

SLIM 32yr old blonde, kind, caring, good listener, honest, likes to have fun, seeks male. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 339373

28YR old blonde, seeks fun loving, adventurous male for relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 380918

SUSIE fun loving mum with GSOH seeks gentle considerate to get to know better. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 404627

JANE 48yrs West Midlands, likes meals out, cinema, theatre, looking for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403949

48YR old attractive female seeking local fun maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403947

LOVING caring young 67yr old female, 5ft 2ins, slim size 12, brown hair, likes meals out, GSOH, smoker, seeks slim, smart male with GSOH, 58-62. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 364651

GAIL 52, blonde hair, 5ft 2ins, likes nights out, sees N/S male, 50-60 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 402041

LIZ 42, black, divorced, seeking male, 44-54 for kind, sincere, honest, open relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 400949

CLARE 38, single mum, curly hair, glass, loves to be tactile, OHAC, WLTM caring male for LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 404819

GEOFF 60's, tall, seeking nice lady for fun, friendship, relationship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406077

PAUL 46, brown/blond hair, 6ft, slim, single dad, genuine, down to earth, fun loving, kind, caring, likes most things seeking female for love. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406067

PHIL 55, divorced, 5ft 10ins, slim, OHAC, seeks female, 18 plus for discreet adult fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 401431

FEMALE looking for gent, 65-70, caring, loving and independent. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 376295

35YR old female, seeks intelligent, down to earth male, 50-75 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 388297

MANDY 36, size 10 but busty, looking for discreet relationship with open-minded man. Status unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 360317

JANE attractive, seeking male for fun and friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403807

JULIE straight female, GSOH, seeking new female friends, 40-50, young 49, blonde hair, blue eyes, slim, 5ft 7ins, enjoy walks, holidays, meals out, cinema, travel, music. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 396053

JOHN 45, 5ft 7ins, brown hair, blue eyes, slim, seeks male with GSOH and similar interests for friendship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 405975

ROSE 40, 5ft 5ins, brown hair, blue eyes, slim, seeks male with GSOH and similar interests for friendship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 405975

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WInless streak for Beacon continues

Tales from The Bratch

BEACON'S winless run was extended to five games after they suffered a losing draw at home to Staffs Clubs Premier Division leaders Hawkins.

The power-packed Hawkins batting line-up cashed in on a batsman-friendly surface as they plundered 297-4 declared from 42 overs.

In reply, Beacon were always below the rate but batted out to secure a draw as they finished on 209-5 from 58 overs.

Chris Townsend hit an unbeaten half-century with skipper Roger Fildes adding 41 and Matt Briggs 36.

Talented teenager Zac Smith was the star of the show as Beacon's seconds secured a 28-run success against Hawkins.

The Worcestershire Under-14 all-rounder sent Hawkins spinning to 130 all out as he bagged 7-43 with his off-breaks.

Beacon had earlier been restricted to 158-8 with Ed Steventon (33) and Shaun Imran Laban (31) the main contributors. The third XI went down to a five-wicket defeat at Cannock.

Nigel Prestridge made 41 as Beacon were dismissed for 139 before Cannock knocked off the runs inside 31 overs despite Alan Green picking up 3-27.

Andrew Harvey turned in an impressive display with the ball to lead the fourth team to a 120-run win against Rugeley.

Chance to hone your footie skills

FOOTBALL teams from across Sandwell and Dudley are being invited to play in a specially created Pre-Season Fives tournaments.

The contests aim to help them boost match fitness ahead of the start of the new football season.

The tournament will take place at the Goals Soccer Centre off Cakemore Road on August 18 from noon.

Entry costs £30 per team and the winners will receive a new football kit.

To enter a team contact Goals Dudley on 0121 561 3000 or visit www.goalsfootball.co.uk.

Praise for fans as Hamill heads back

CALIFORNIAN superstar Billy Hamill has paid tribute to Heathens fans ahead of his visit to next Tuesday's FAST Golden Hammer at Monmore (7.30pm).

Hamill, the 1998 world champion, makes his first visit to a Dudley Heathens event after they formed in 2010 – the year after he retired from racing.

He will be available to sign autographs from 6pm before taking his place in the pits to help American teenage ace Max Rumi on a meeting.

And he has fond memories of the old Dudley Wood days after start-

ing his glittering career with Cradley in 1990. He said: "The people lived for their speedway each week, they talked about it in the local pubs and wherever the riders went, home or away, they would be there in huge numbers encouraging us and cheering us on week in week out."

"They all knew their stuff as well and loved the local derbies against Wolverhampton. Those matches were tight affairs when we rode them home and away on a Bank Holiday."

"The terraces would be packed of fans and I couldn't describe the

Speedway

buzz that used to give me as a rider. It always seemed to come down to a battle in the last race and Greg (Hancock) and I usually came out on top."

Hamill is relishing the prospect of meeting up with his fans once again in the Black Country.

He said: "I'm looking forward to seeing everyone."

Normal admission prices apply for the meeting with 16 riders and 20 heats – adults £11, concessions £8 and children £2. A special sou-

venir programme, including a special Hamill supplement with words and pictures from his Heathens career, is £3.

The meeting will also feature a collection for Dudley Stroke Association – and all race jackets used on the night will be auctioned on ebay, apart from the top three which will be available in the lower bar after the meeting.

Heathens chairman Nigel Pearson said: "We are delighted to welcome Billy Hamill as guest of honour and we are once again pleased to be working with the good people of Dudley Stroke Asso-

ciation. I'd also like to thank our club partners, Motor Market in Cradley Heath, for their support of the event in particular the Billy Hamill appearance.

"With the weather forecast so good, I'm sure there will be a great atmosphere with people of all ages enjoying the racing."

FAST Golden Hammer Draw:

Joe Armstrong (Mildenhall), Brady Kurtz (Unattached), Barry Robinson (IOW), Michael Clegg (Dudley), Kyle Haines (Stoke), Max Clegg (Dudley), Nathan Greaves (Dudley), Max Rumi (Unattached), Tom Perry (IOW), Rob Bradford (Coventry), Lewis Blackbird (Dudley), Gary Gough (Bloxwich), Simon Lambert (Rye House), Kyle Newman (Somerset). Reserve: Hayden Sims (Unattached).

Best pro night yet for boxer Paddock

BOXER Luke Paddock scored a points victory over Paul Haines in his latest bout at the Civic Hall, Wolverhampton.

Paddock from Bloxwich fights from Paul Gough's gym in Dudley, the home of Priory Park Amateur Boxing Club, and he experienced his best night as a pro.

He opened the bill with a light welterweight four-rounders, officiated by Wolverhampton's Gareth Morris.

The 21-year-old skipped around Haines and picked punches in one-shot attacks but his adversary answered back with a right hand of his own, although Paddock retained accuracy to the final bell and took the decision 40-37 in a pleasing night.

Wolverhampton's Des Bowater has also been matched well since turning over and engaged in fight number two against Bristol's Harvey Hemmings, over four rounds at super featherweight.

The Wednesday Warrior managed to land a two-punch combination and a right to the head in the first round and let his hands go in a trade-off at the ropes in the second, pegging Hemmings back.

Bowater worked the body in the third and was cruising by the fourth as he picked one-shot attacks to record a 40-36 points success.

The card was completed by the professional debut of Brummie Jordan Clayton, a national finalist in the Clubs for Young People and junior ABA competitions as an amateur.

Clayton was paired in a super middleweight four-rounders with Congo-born Geordie Didier Blanche and took a 40-36 victory.

Blanche was regularly caught with left hooks early on and was left confused as Clayton switched attacks to body and head, sending his opponent hurtling into the corner by a big left.

Villa boss says team is ready

PAUL LAMBERT says Villa will be ready for their daunting start to the new season.

Villa go to Arsenal on day one of the Premier League season on August 17 and host Liverpool a week later. The game at Chelsea has been postponed due to the Blues' Super Cup clash.

Lambert, who takes the squad to Germany on Sunday said: "You have to be ready."

Wolves players told to fasten their seatbelts

WOLVES have been warned to fasten their seatbelts and be ready for a high-tempo game under Kenny Jackett.

Ex-Watford right-back Darren Bazeley is the most notable former Wolves player to have had a taste of the new Molineux head coach's methods.

Now 40 and football development manager for the New Zealand Football Federation as well as being head coach for the Kiwis' Under-17s World Cup campaign, Bazeley came through the ranks at Vicarage Road as Jackett's playing career ended through injury in 1990.

As coach and player respectively under Graham Taylor, the pair won back-to-back promotions as Watford climbed back to the top flight in the late 1990s before Bazeley joined Wolves after 239 appearances for the Hornets.

Bazeley, who played 80 times for Wolves in three years before a spell at Walsall, believes fans and players alike will respond to Jackett's style of play.

"Kenny liked his teams to play good, positive football, but also worked the players hard, creating a very fit team," said Bazeley.

"Players will love working with Kenny and I'm sure he will create a hard-working, positive, high-tempo team that the Wolves fans will enjoy supporting."

"I met Kenny when I was 16 at Watford; he was the youth-team coach at the time."

"He quickly moved from the youth team into the reserves then on to the first team, where he worked over at Wolves."

Teams turn out to play in massive tournament



Mayor and Mayoress of Dudley with U-10s Kewford South Left (who are all left footed) who beat Lye 2-1 in the finals



Celebrating are Kewford South players with their trophy and medals after winning the Under 11s

MORE than 260 teams played in the annual Kewford Eagles Five-a-Side Childrens Football Tournament – one of the biggest in the Midlands.

Played at Dudley Kingswinford Rugby Club, Wall Heath children of all ages enjoyed a weekend of football which brought families and communities together.

The Mayor and Mayoress of Dudley, Councillor Alan Finch and Mrs Heather Finch, attended and presented the prizes to the winners and runners-up.

Brett Woodall, Charity Trustee and

Tournament Organiser, said: "This was one of the best tournaments we have held with more 260 teams playing in the tournament and we were honoured the Mayor and Mayoress were able to join us."

"I am very proud of all the volunteers in our Club who worked so hard to make this tournament such a success."

Lynn Boleyn, Charity Trustee and Club Welfare Officer, said: "It was so fantastic to see so many children with their families thoroughly enjoying themselves in the sunshine."

Kewford Eagles has around 500 children playing which includes boys, girls and the disabled.

The Club has recently raised funds to develop 30 acres of land next door to DK rugby club into 11 full size football pitches with changing rooms and toilets on land it is leasing.

Kewford was awarded £50,000 by Sport England and another £80,000 by the Football Foundation awarded the Club. The pitches and building work is now complete but games will not be held at the new ground until September next year.

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Stroke Prevention and Awareness

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SPORT

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Weather hits cycle challenge entries

Stourbridge Cycling Club
10 mile Time Trial League
Round 4

BAD weather reduced the number of entries in round four of Stourbridge Cycling Club's season-long Time Trial Championship.

It had rained all day but stopped just before the event. Strong winds dried out the roads but added a new challenge for the racers to face.

Guest James Jevons, aged 18, lived up to his reputation as one of the most promising young riders in the area with his fourth consecutive win in an impressive time of 23.26.

James now leads the Championship with a maximum 400 points.

Mark Perry was the leading Stourbridge member with a sterling 25.52, half a minute clear of team mate Kevin Brain in 26.27.

Anthony Neave clocked a very respectable 27.03 to be the leading Stourbridge member in the overall Time Trial League Championship.

Other Stourbridge riders to compete in Round 4 were: Neil Ruston 27.36; Anthony Wheatley 27.59; Roger Allen 28.13; Ian Cadwallader 29.13; Jack Cooper 29.18; Jason Brookes 30.10; Matt Jones 32.21.

Ty fear on neck injury

WOLVES speedway ace Ty Proctor fears he may need an operation to cure his neck problem.

A slipped disc is pinching a nerve in his neck after the Australian crashed while riding for his Premier League side Plymouth.

The disc should have moved back into place naturally by now – but has refused to budge. Proctor faces a key appointment with a specialist next week – but thinks he may have to go under the knife with an unknown recovery time.

"The specialist has told me that the disc is leaning against the nerve and it looks like an operation is needed," he said.

Wolves owner Chris Van Straaten is now casting anxious eyes on the outcome of next week's medical appointment and may have to draft in a replacement for Proctor, one of the team's stars of the season so far.

"He's seeing a top specialist in Sheffield on Wednesday," said Van Straaten.

Boss looks for hard graft to reap rewards

Wolves

WOLVES have made the journey to Andy Murray country – and the players already have a feeling for the punishing ritual the new Wimbledon champion has endured, such as yoga.

Kenny Jackett's squad are staying in Murray's hometown of Dunblane for six days and training at Stirling University, three and a half miles away. Jackett has had the players in at 7.30am every weekday since a week last Wednesday for the first of three training sessions per day.

After almost two weeks of the lung-bursting schedule, they boarded their coach at Molineux at 9am on Monday with few signs

the hard work is letting up. They return for a training camp in Scotland for the first time since 2008, which preceded their promotion to the Premier League as Championship champions.

But like Murray – who has worn the old gold shirt at tournaments given to him by Wolves fan John Lloyd in 2008 – Jackett is really into the business of being a winner.

He sees the best way to do that is by being as fit as possible, with a more varied routine than the players would have been used to.

Jackett said: "I think to do three sessions a day, you generally in a working environment need to get up early and get working."

"It's a good habit to get into and in pre-season, it's something I've always done."

"It's good to lay down some foundations and then you can properly separate a running session, a football session and a gym session."

In Mick McCarthy's time, Wolves players were given the choice of taking up weekly pilates sessions offered to them.

Only a few did so, now similar work is a staple under Jackett, who said: "The gym-based sessions can be anything from weight

training and physical conditioning to core work to mobility to yoga. You get variation in all of those areas and you can specify."

"I like to separate each section because those three aspects cover every aspect of training, then you can get the right thing at the right time after that."

The early starts aren't just to get players into a routine. Jackett believes the rest between each session is as important as the session itself to prepare correctly for the next one.

Diet is also a vital part of Jackett's strict regime – with the varied menus, re-placed by healthier options.

Tai pledge after Euro invitation

TAI WOFFINDEN will race in the Speedway European Championship as a wildcard later this month.

The Wolverhampton man has also moved to assure supporters he won't miss any Elite League meetings in the UK as a result.

He joins fellow top international stars in triple world champion Nicki Pedersen, current Grand Prix series leader Emil Sayfutdinov, 2010 world champion Tomasz Gollob and Swedish star Andreas Jonsson.

The series begins on July 27 in Gdansk before moving to Togliatti, Gorican and Rzeszow.

Woffinden said: "I'm delighted to finally be in a position to accept this invitation and I will represent Great Britain with pride."

"It's a high quality line-up and I'm excited about it. I can assure Wolverhampton fans I won't be missing any fixtures."

"But the Speedway European Championship is just another exciting challenge for me in what has so far been a great season for me."

"After careful negotiations I have finally been given permission and I would like to thank Chris Van Straaten at Wolverhampton for all his help."

Another home game on screen

WOLVES' second home game against Crawley Town has been selected for live coverage by Sky Sports.

The first ever competitive meeting between the clubs has been brought forward to Friday, August 23, with a 7.45pm kick off.

The Capital One Cup tie away to Morecambe is to be shown on Tuesday, August 6 (7.45pm).

The Chronicle, a Midland News Association Ltd publication, printed by the company at Ketley, Telford. Thursday, July 11, 2013.

ASTON BELTS UP TO CLAIM FIRST TITLE

DUDLEY'S Ryan Aston was the boss of fight night at Wolverhampton Civic Hall to win his first title after his opponent retired with a rib injury at the start of the fourth round.

Harry Matthews' movement had been impaired by a crunching body shot and, with his left eye also marked, punishment for the other six scheduled rounds seemed futile.

It brought to an end Aston's best performance in the pro ranks to date in his 12th paid contest. He left the Civic on Saturday night with the British Masters super middleweight belt.

The match was made outside of the 22-year-old's usual realm of middleweight as Matthews had stepped in at just over a couple of days notice but it was, nonetheless, an impressive result.

The never-stopped Pocklington Rocket, a former Central Area champion and English title challenger, certainly didn't bully Aston as he would have liked.

Connected

Aston bounced out of the corner from the opening bell and soon connected with two right hooks.

The right hook was his primary weapon, but he bamboozled Matthews back into the corner with a big left in the second.

Matthews kept on coming forward in the third right up until he was hurt by a loaded right hook to the ribcage that nearly took him off his feet and signalled the beginning of the end.

Summers usually a light heavy, had to lose nearly a stone-and-a-half as he struggled with his personal grief. He dedicated the fight to his mother's memory.

Derby puncher Elvis Dube wasn't the easiest introduction back into pro life for the former senior ABA national semi-finalist, who had two fights paid experience, but he coped well.

Wisely unwilling to trade with a heavy hitter, Summers, 25, stayed behind his jab and enjoyed success when putting his punches together in the second.

Summers kept his head moving to record a shut-out points victory by 40-36.

● Paddock – Page 47

Tipton's Ricky Summers was pleased to be in action on the under-card after months out of the ring due to the passing of his mother, Shirley, who lost her battle with leukaemia in March.

Summers, usually a light heavy, had to lose nearly a stone-and-a-half as he struggled with his personal grief. He dedicated the fight to his mother's memory.

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Summers kept his head moving to record a shut-out points victory by 40-36.



Triumphant – Dudley's Ryan Aston



Aston sends a right jab flying into the face of Matthews



Matthews fights back during the bout at the Civic Hall

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